NEWS / A2 | WORLD / A23 | SAT. SPECIAL / G1 | SUPER LIFESTYLE / F1

Higher SLEx toll rates may take effect next week

By Paolo G. Montecillo and Nikko Dizon

THE SOUTH Luzon Tollways Corp. (SLTC) will implement the increased toll rates at the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) by next week or early November following the Supreme Court ruling lifting the restraining order against the toll operator's proposed new rates.

"If there are no more hindrances, we just need to reprogram our computers ... then we can change the new rates," said SLTC president Isaac David.

HIGHER, A11

COA: LWUA overspent by P370M in 2009

UN doubts Burma elections will be fair

Helen Mirren still sexy at 65

Dear Fiesta Carnival and other love letters to discontinued products

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Saturday, October 23, 2010 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 25 / No. 317 P18

Celeb Chile miners want simple lives back

SANTIAGO, Chile—One week after being hoisted from the depths of a collapsed mine in Chile, the 33 rescued workers say they are fed up with celebrity, the media scrum and even the

CELEB, A11

INNOCENTS Pope Orpiano mourns the loss of daughter Cess, 12, stabbed by the amok inside the elementary school. LEO SABALDAN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Ex-con runs amok in school, kills 3

By Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three years ago, Rolin Mateo, a convicted rapist, stepped out of prison after winning presidential clemency. Yesterday, he burst into an elementary school and, in a murderous frenzy, stabbed to death a 12-year-old girl, a teacher and an elderly man who had tried to shield another girl, his granddaughter.

Six others were wounded in the attack as Mateo, 50, went berserk, stabbing with his seven-inch knife every one who crossed his path, children included, police said.

Angry residents mobbed him, and pounded and stoned him to death, bursting

EX-CON, A10

CRIME SCENE The security guard was in the toilet when the crazed man entered the school.

High tribunal vs UP Law

PNP links MILF to bus blast; 2 other angles eyed

KIDAPAWAN CITY—Though investigators are leaning toward extortion as the motive behind the bus explosion on Thursday that killed 10 persons and injured at least 20 others, Philippine National Police Director General Raul Bacalzo said yesterday the police were also considering other motives.

These include retaliation and terrorism, which may be behind the explosion that occurred in Matalam, North Cotabato, aboard a third Transic bus that left Cagayan de Oro City at dawn for Tacurong City.

Quoting information from at least 10 witnesses, Senior Supt. Carmelo Salinas, North Cotabato police chief, said the bombers belonged to a terror group identified with a large armed organization.

PNP LINKS, A11

5,000 panic over fake alert on dam spill

By Dona Pazzibugan

A FAKE warning circulated by text messages about water being released from the San Roque Dam caused some 5,000 people living near the Agno River in Pangasinan to evacuate in panic last Thursday.

"They're trying to cause trouble," said Benito Ramos, executive director of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), who disclosed the fake public advisory during an NDRRMC

LOOK, A10

'Overwhelming' support for profs in plagiarism case

HELPING HANDS Philippine policemen and US Marines load relief goods into a US CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter for a mercy mission in Isabela, one of two provinces hardest hit by Supertyphoon "Juan" on Monday. The Philippine weather bureau lifted all typhoon warnings as Juan moved farther away toward Taiwan and southeastern China. CHITA SOLIVEN

By Nikko Dizon

THE 37 FACULTY members of the University of the Philippines College of Law, including its dean, will not want for legal defenders in case the Supreme Court imposes sanctions for their purported violation of the lawyers' code of ethics.

UP law dean Marvic Leonen said there had been "overwhelming" support for the group since news broke that the high court ordered them to explain why they issued a scathing statement criticizing Associate Justice Mariano del Castillo and his supposed act of plagiarism and misrepresentation in a court decision involving Philippine maritime "comfort women."

"We are a little less articulate nowadays on this issue, which is a manifestation that we have gotten our counsels. We are overwhelmed by the offers of support. We have produced many lawyers and they have come to offer to represent us," Leonen said in a press conference at Malcolm Hall, the Col-

HIGH, A10

Pagasa: New storm due today but will most likely spare RP

By Kristine L. Alave

WEATHERMEN yesterday spotted a new tropical depression in the Western Pacific but said it would likely skirt the Philippines and head for Taiwan or southern Japan, sparing Luzon from further damage after a destructive strike by Supertyphoon "Juan."

The latest tropical disturbance—referred to by forecasters as "Kating"—is expected to enter the Philippines' area of responsibility around noon today but is unlikely to make landfall in the country, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said.

Kating was spotted 1,320 kilometers east of northern Lu-

PAGASA, A10

Good barangay gov't class inspires new politics

By Winston A. Marbella
Contributor

SPARKS OF INSPIRATION flew when Barangay Forbes Park chair Jose "JoeCon" Concepcion Jr. attended a workshop being run by former Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. at the Center for Good Governance of University of Makati (UMak).

Before the day was over, the two former members of President Corazon Aquino's Cabinet had inspired Nestor L. Emnita, a retired overseas Filipino worker now living in Toledo, Manila, and Luigi Gana, a professor teaching barangay justice, to "take the law into their own hands," so to speak, and run in the barangay elections on Monday.

JoeCon, a patriarch of a business conglomerate, was among the first batch of barangay officials formally schooled in Pimentel's Institute of Leadership and Governance, which teaches ethical public service.

Emnita and Gana were his classmates.

GOOD, A9

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

PCSO

6/55	26	25	18	20	11	31
QUICKIE 5/15	0	1	9	0	5	7
4D LOTTO	3	1	4	2	0	7	6
MEGA LOTTO 6/45	13	14	25	36	37	45

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COA REPORT

Water body splurged on bonuses

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PIDIAP

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE LOCAL Water Utilities Administration's insistence on giving out allowances and bonuses that the Department of Budget and Management had disallowed caused it to overspend by P370.479 million in 2009, according to the Commission on Audit.

The COA, in its 2009 report on the LWUA, said that examination of the agency's detailed statement of income and expenses as of Dec. 31 showed that the LWUA's actual expenses for its personal services and maintenance and other operating expenses (MOOE) exceeded the BBM's approved combined budget for these items.

LWUA, headed by former Rep. Prospero Pichay, had contested the COA's findings, saying it had operated within the limits of the LWUA board-approved corporate operating budget while it was waiting for BBM's approval, which only came in February this year.

But the COA pointed out that based on records, the actual expenses incurred for personal services were more than those in the LWUA board-approved corporate budget, contrary to the LWUA's claims.

In its report, the audit agency noted that the LWUA approved corporate operating budget was P446.766 million. Of this, P336.1.857 million was for personal services, while P219.909 million was for MOOE.

Already disallowed

But while the LWUA did not use up all of its MOOE budget, spending only P162.261 million, its personal services expenses amounted to P649.983 million, or an excess of P428.126 million, it said.

Combining the amounts used up for personal services and MOOE for 2009, the LWUA overspent by P370.479 million, it added.

"The excess in personal services of P428,126,876 can be attributed to allowances and bonuses that had already been disallowed by DBM but were still given by LWUA to its officials and employees," it said.

The COA said that LWUA had overprovided for the cost of living allowance, yearend bonus and 13th month pay and subsidy, salaries and wages, Christmas bonus, medical benefits and hospitalization, uniform allowance, representation and transportation capacity, clothing and uniform allowance and PhilHealth. These amounted to P157.036 million.

It also said that among the allowances that were given despite not being included in the DBM budget were the cash gift for birthday celebrants, grocery allowance, performance incentive bonus and educational allowance. These added up to P139.303 million.

It disclosed that the LWUA benefits that had no legal basis were the anniversary incentive bonus, the yearend financial assistance and the cost-of-living allowance. These were worth P86.746 million.

Another P14.394 million worth of other bonuses, such as the president fund, honoraria and loyalty awards, were chargeable against the LWUA savings worth P19.838 million.

'Tradition'

The water utilities office had defended the allowances and bonuses it provided to employees, reasoning, among others, that some of them were traditional ones given and that they were in compliance with the principle of proportionality of salaries, allowances and financial assistance as established under the Salary Grade Act of 1989.

It further said that the benefits were supported by board resolutions, in accordance with the collective negotiation agreement, or based on a directive from the Office of the President. Other benefits were also given across the board, with the LWUA considering equities any employee, it said.

But the COA noted that the DBM had disallowed the contested bonuses, benefits and allowances. It said that the LWUA should stop giving out the benefits without legal basis, and that the provided amounts should be refunded.

LPG marketers face raps for price-fixing, cartelization

A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE official said members of the Liquefied Petroleum Gas Marketers' Association (LPGMA) are allegedly acting as a cartel to control the prices of LPG in the country.

In the 25-page complaint affidavit at the Department of Justice, Assistant Attorney accused LPGMA, presidents and party list rep. Arnel Ty and several executives of the group of conspiring with one another to determine the retail price of LPG's sales.

Made from a mixture of petroleum and natural gases, LPG is the country's most commonly used cooking gas in household and commercial establishments.

Attorney, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI), charged "it of al. violated Section 11 of Republic Act No. 6975, or the Downstream Oil Industry Deregulation Act of 1998, and Article 186 of the Revised Penal Code.

Those laws prohibit cartelization and monopoly of any business and trade practices in the Philippines.

In pursuing his case, Attorney presented Ty's various media interviews which, he argued, proved LPGMA's characters as a cartel.

"LPGMA has itself declared that it controls 80 percent of the LPG market for Luzon. As such, trade and free competition has undoubtedly been restrained by respondents' agreement and/or combination and/or concerted action," the complaint read.

It added: "On the basis of respondents' very own evidence in view of their agreements and/or combinations and/or concerted actions in fixing the price of LPG in the market, there cannot be any doubt as to their criminal liability for cartelization."

Aside from Ty, also named as respondents in the case were Danilo Chua, Alfonso Ty, Rene Hassell, Renato Sevillana, Rhe Dave Tang, Virginia Cid, Rosalia de Ekris and Antonio del Rosario. Marlon Ramos

Be patient, De Lima tells 'Morong 43' kin

By Marlon Ramos

Justice Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday gave this advice to relatives and supporters of 43 detained health workers who had been urging President Aquino to order their release from prison.

De Lima met with members of the Free the 43 Health Workers Alliance at her office at the Department of Justice in Manila to alleviate the status of the health workers, collectively known as "Morong 43."

The justice secretary said she explained to them that the President was still weighing his legal options and that he recognized the circumstances of the arrest.

"I told them to wait and to give the President a little more time to reflect and decide on those recommended courses of action," De Lima said of her meeting with the group.

She said she was still waiting for Mr. Aquino's orders on the proposals he made regarding the criminal cases against the health workers, who were arrested in Morong, Bataan, on Feb. 3 on suspicion that they were communist rebels.

She said she assured the families of the detained health workers that Mr. Aquino would make his own judgment on the matter in due time.

"So you know... the President said he knows the issues involved. He even mentioned the 'fruit of the poisonous tree' doctrine," she added.

But while Mr. Aquino "appreciated and understood the factual and legal milieu of the case," De Lima said the President was still studying the courses of action that she recommended.

For their part, Jigo Clamor, husband of one of the detained health workers, said they thanked De Lima for her prompt action on the case of their relatives.

"We are hoping that the President would adopt the recommendations of Secretary De Lima to pave the way for release of the health workers," said Clamor, also the acting secretary general of the human rights group Karapatan.

Heeding the calls of various international human rights groups, Mr. Aquino ordered De Lima to review the cases filed against the health workers, who were purportedly attending training on bomb-making when they were arrested.

De Lima declined to disclose her recommendations, but DOJ insiders said the justice secretary had proposed the dropping of charges against the group.

2 killed in Moro rebs' ambush

TWO CIVILIANS were killed when armed followers of a wanted Muslim extremist leader ambushed a military convoy in Maguindanao, the military said yesterday.

The attackers set off improvised bombs and fired at a military convoy as it was traveling through the troubled province on Thursday, a military statement said.

The convoy, which was being followed by vehicles carrying civilians and journalists, fended off the attackers but two civilians were killed and one soldier wounded, the statement added.

The military blamed the attack on followers of Abdul Basit Usman, a top Filipino Islamic militant who was reportedly killed by a US missile strike in Pakistan in January.

NEARING PROMULGATION

Cliffhanger for Oakwood mutiny saga

By Nikko Dizon

THE SEVENTH AB Oakwood mutiny saga hands yet another cliffhanger.

The motion filed by detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and nine others rejected for Judge Oscar Pimentel to dismiss the Oct. 28 promulgation of the case has been submitted for resolution at yesterday's hearing at the Makati Regional Trial court branch 148.

This means that Pimentel could issue his ruling on the motion hastily a day or more before promulgation day Monday, Oct. 25, is a holiday due to the barangay elections.

"It's a cliffhanger for you, imagine how it is for those accused," lawyer Reynaldo Robles, Trillanes' lawyer, told the Inquirer by phone.

Motion to defer ruling

Robles said it was perfectly within Pimentel's "discretion" to study the parties' motions before issuing a ruling.

In a separate interview, Senior State Prosecutor Jose Mejilas Sison said that Pimentel received the defense motion as well as the prosecution's opposition last the other day, which means that the judge will has to study only both parties' arguments.

Asking Trillanes to file motion to defer the ruling were Gamet Marine Capt. Gary Alejano and Navy Lt. Antonio Leong.

They asked for a deferment of the promulgation of the coup d'etat case against them, citing the pending consideration of Congress over the controversial proclamation issued by President Aquino.

The prosecution, however, opposed the motion, stressing that the court can show its independence by going ahead with the promulgation as the solidarity granted by the Aquino to the military rebels has yet to be sanctioned by Congress.

TRAFFIC
ADVISORY

The University of Santo Tomas will hold the UST Entrance Test (USTET) for AY 2011-2012 on **OCTOBER 24, 2010 (SUNDAY)** from **8:00 am to 12:00 nn** and **2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.**

Due to the big number of examinees, HEAVY TRAFFIC within the vicinity of the University, particularly España, Dapitan, A.H. Lacson, and P. Noval Streets, IS EXPECTED.

The public is advised to take alternative routes.

Thank you for your understanding.

Furthermore, please be advised that the next USTET schedule will be on December 12, 2010.

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Noynoy to sign 4 pacts in state visit to Vietnam

By Leila B. Salaverria

PRESIDENT AQUINO plans to sign four agreements with Vietnam aimed at improving bilateral cooperation when he makes a state visit to the country next week.

Mr. Aquino is scheduled to meet with Vietnamese President Nguyen Minh, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Communist Party of Vietnam General Secretary Nong Duc Manh, Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Belinda Bautista told reporters yesterday.

He would sign memorandum of agreements on defense cooperation, academic cooperation, oil spill preparedness and response and search and rescue at sea in Hanoi, she added.

Mr. Aquino is to depart for Vietnam on Tuesday.

The agreement on defense cooperation seeks to link the Philippines' and Vietnam's defense agencies and military and enjoy defense and military cooperation, equipment and technology transfer and education cooperation between the countries' defense industries.

The MOA on academic cooperation seeks to foster cooperation in higher education and professional training and provide a framework allowing programs and education cooperation can be tackled.

In another agreement, Philippines and Vietnam will seal their intention to join hands in preparing for and responding to oil spills. The agreement seeks to expand human resources development, mutual assistance, information exchange and research and development in the area.

The MOA on search and rescue at sea seeks to improve the efficiency in both countries of search and rescue operations for ships, aircraft and people in distress.

Representatives of the Department of National Defense, Commission on Higher Education and the Philippine Coast Guard will join Mr. Aquino in his state visit and are expected to help seal the deals. Also joining the trip are officials from the Departments of Finance, Foreign Affairs and Trade and Industry, the Presidential Management Staff and the Office of the President.

Bautista said the Philippine delegation would be big.

Mr. Aquino is also slated to address business leaders in Vietnam and **[illegible]** members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at a **[illegible]** and **[illegible]** conference in Hanoi.

He will also meet with members of the Filipino community who number some 3,000.

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It is a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the 2010 Insurance Consciousness Week.

Filipinos are increasingly getting more aware about the value of insurance. The thrust of the industry for now is not simply to educate our people of its importance. But to ensure they know that there are insurance products that will meet their insurance needs, that we have quality insurance services available to them, and that our insurers are capable of fulfilling their contractual obligations.

The Insurance Commission continues with its mandate and objective to protect the insuring public and work to promote the health and efficiency of the insurance industry. Together, let us continue to make our people conscious of insurance. All our best intentions for this event are focused on this one goal - that our people should fully appreciate the benefits of insurance.

The 84 member companies of PIRA are once again excited to promote the importance of insurance through the annual Insurance Consciousness Week. Everywhere you look, what the world is now getting used to, is taking under the second week of October to promote insurance consciousness. PIRA has pledged its utmost support of ICW activities. That pledge continues to this day. All of us in the association are convinced that insurance consciousness is necessary for our beloved country to recognize and for our people to deserve better things.

The lessons flooding brought by tropical storm "Ondoy" was a wake-up call for all of us. Suddenly, our countrymen realized how exposed they are to various kinds of risks, particularly those caused by nature. Though the country has obviously recovered from that nightmare, we in PIRA are very much hopeful that Filipinos decided not forget the lessons the Big Flood taught us all -- especially the lesson that being prepared and insured properly, is very important. This year's ICW serves as a warm up for major international insurance events that will happen in the country in November. PIRA is spearheading the 6th International Micro Insurance Conference which deals with insurance for poor and marginalized. We are also co-hosting this year's ASEAN Insurance Council meetings which will be participated in by industry leaders and industry regulators from Southeast Asia. On top of these, we are backing the Young ASEAN Managers Awards which recognize the promising future leaders of the region.

We can therefore say that in the few weeks that will follow, all eyes of the insurance industry in the region will be focused on Our Philippines.

It is PIRA's privilege to be given this opportunity. As the umbrella organization of all non-life insurance companies in the country, PIRA will perform its role as the voice of the industry and promote the importance of insurance to everyone.

Maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

MICHAEL T. REGALA
Chairman
Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association, Inc.

Greetings as the Insurance Commission, organizers of Insurance Consciousness Week, the Philippine Insurers and Reinsurers Association and the Philippine Insurers Club.

For years, the insurance industry has played a silent yet important role in our everyday lives. It's high time that we celebrate and remember the significance and peace of mind that insurance brings to all of us. As an insurance practitioner I am privileged to be part of

valuable activities that will generate public awareness on the importance of insurance and surrender stability and security to the insuring public.

The insurance practitioners are pleased to give back in service what the insurance industry has blessed us with; a secured life with our family and loved ones. To be secured we should be insured.

Congratulations to all the hardworking people behind this equally hardworking industry. I am so afraid to overlook anyone so I shall dismiss this "KAMALAYAN, KAHANDAAN, KASIGURADUHAN."

To God be the Glory.

LYDIA C. PAGARAN
President
Philippine Insurers Club, Inc.

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OCTOBER 27, Wednesday	**INSURANCE ORIENTATION TO MEMBERS OF A TRICYCLE OPERATORS-DRIVERS COOPERATIVE** Venue: Parañaque City
OCTOBER 28, Thursday	**DONATION OF EQUIPMENT - CHARITY WORK** Venue: Hospicio de San Jose - Kamikazan ni Maria, Antipolo
OCTOBER 29, Friday	**MOTORCADE - COURTESY CALL TO MAYOR DUTERTE - MEETING WITH DAVAO INSURERS CLUB - TV GUESTING ABS-CBN** Venue: Davao City

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Sue Dinky, Palace dares her critics

By Hermie Bautista

MALACAÑANG yesterday dared critics of Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman to file a complaint against her before the Truth Commission if they believe she should be held accountable for the alleged Pepe Smith scheme that benefited Code-NGO, a coalition of non-government organizations that Soliman used to lead.

Presidential Spokesperson Salvador Lacierda said it was not for the executive branch to decide whether the grant funds controversy should also be investigated by the Truth Commission, which President Duterte created to probe the allegedly corrupt deals of the previous Aquino administration.

"It's up to the Truth Commission. If anyone would like to raise a concern against certain Cabinet officials during the past nine years, let them do so," Lacierda told a press briefing.

He defended Soliman, claiming she had been cleared of any involvement by congressional inquiries that investigated the deal.

"I'm also stating for the fact that Dinky Soliman was never involved in the Code-NGO funds because she never participated in the way start," Lacierda said.

Sen. Filipardo Angara said on Thursday that, to ensure fairness, the Truth Commission should also the deals involving former Aquino Cabinet members, particularly Soliman, even though they are now allied with the Duterte administration.

He cited the case of the Pepe Smith deal of 2003 in which the the Caucus of Development NGO Networks (Code-NGO) made P1.4 billion through the Bureau of government bonds—the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates or Peace Bonds.

The deal envisaged some interest income of the way Code-NGO allegedly used its influence—it supported Arroyo's rise to power—to lobby the Arroyo government for the issuance and sale of 30-year zero coupon notes at a rate that would allow it to sell them at the secondary market for a profit.

The critics said the government suffered a loss of P5 billion in taxes, another P25 billion in interest payments and still another P35 billion when the bonds became due in 2011.

The bonds were monetized in October 2009, and what Code-NGO made from the deal was ostensible intended to set up a foundation to finance poverty alleviation projects.

Soliman, former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first social welfare secretary, was with the group of Arroyo Cabinet officials known as the Hyatt 10 that withdrew support from Arroyo in 2005 after the "Hello Garci" scandal. She actively campaigned for Mr. Aquino in the last elections.

Meanwhile, Soliman has appealed to critics of the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program to direct their attacks at her, rather than at the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and its anti-poverty programs.

"Please DSWD, figure the pesos. Take me," said Soliman as she presented the CCT program to non-government organizations on Thursday evening in Los Laguna. With Mariane Cruz, Inquirer Southern Luzon

ERRATUM

In the 3RD #HYPERMARKET print ad published October 22, 2018, page A7, there was inadvertent error made. The price of Wafer Sugar Free Wheat Bread 300g should be P52 per pack. We apologize for inconvenience that we have caused our readers.

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Convenience store, caterer padlocked

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue (BIR) has padlocked a food catering firm and a convenience store at the Ortigas Center in Pasig for failing to pay a combined P5.46 million in value-added tax (VAT) since 2008.

The two firms were Decadence Culinary Services, located at the Philippine Stock Exchange Center, and Shabu Speed Merchandise (Hua Ang) Convenience Store on Garnet Road.

According to BIR investigators, Decadence owed the government some P3.83 million in unpaid VAT, covering the period January 2008 to June 2013.

Hua ang Speed was found to have underpaid its VAT obligations by P1.63 million from 2008 and 2009.

"The two businesses committed acts constituting violations of the Tax Code such as failure to pay correct income tax and VAT, failure to supply correct and accurate information, attempt to evade or defeat tax and perjury," the BIR said in a statement.

The shutting down of the two establishments were the sixth and seventh under the Oplan Kandado campaign since July, the month Chief President Arguelles assumed office.

The lockdown means that the BIR is not letting up on its campaign against smaller fish despite Bir Commissioner Kim Henares' expressed preference to go after big offenders through the Run after Tax Evaders or RATE program.

Henares has described Oplan Kandado as a last-level RATE campaign that the agency wrongly honed under the Aquino administration.

Last August, the BIR also closed down Iron Bite Welding House, also in Pasig, which was found to have income tax liabilities amounting to P9.87 million, VAT liabilities of P3.36 million and withholding tax liabilities of P1.27 million—all for 2006.

Journal Bl. Domingo

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 27, 2018
29th Week in Ordinary Time
Julian of Cuenca

1st Reading — Eph 4:7-16
Gospel — Lk 13:1-9

Some persons told Jesus what had occurred in the Temple. Pilate had Galileans killed and their blood mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus replied, "I tell you that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this? I tell you, no. But unless you change your ways, you will all perish as they did."

And Jesus continued with this story: "A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard and he came looking for fruit on it, but found none. Then he said to the gardener: 'Look here, for three years now I have been looking for fig on this tree and I have found none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' The gardener replied: 'Leave it one more year, sir, then I may dig around it and add some fertilizer, and perhaps it will bear fruit here after. But if it doesn't, you can cut it down.'"

Commentary

"If we use hours, figs next year, as much the better if not, then you can have it cut down."

Like the fig tree, we are given everything we need in life to grow and mature.

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With $20B in 40 years, Japan is RP's top donor

By Jerry E. Esplanada

JAPAN HAS BEEN the Philippines' top donor of what Tokyo calls "soft-fashion aid," or official development aid (ODA), during the past four decades with grants and soft loans amounting to more than P800 billion.

The Japanese Embassy in Quezon City, however, said that "while Japan is known as a leading source for big projects, such as the Nino Aquino International Airport Terminal 2 and the Second Mactan-Mandaue Bridge (in Cebu), many people, including those who directly benefited from Japanese assistance, are sometimes unaware of Japan's support in a large number of projects" here.

But the mission said that "despite its current economic difficulties, Japan will continue to support the Philippines," which is called "one of the most important and friendly countries in Japan."

Between 1967 and 2008, Japan's ODA to Manila totaled over $20.5 billion.

"The Philippines ranks as the fourth largest (ODA) recipient, next to its dominions, China and India," said the embassy in its website.

Japanese assistance to the Philippines "has also been channeled through multilateral donors, such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and various United Nations-attached agencies," the mission elevated.

It noted that "through the decades, Japanese ODA has been contributing to the (Philippine government's) development efforts in many fields, including irrigation, flood control, education, health care, earthquake detection, rural road network construction and improvement, water supply and livelihood programs."

The embassy clarified that Japanese ODA is "not limited to using Japanese goods and services alone."

Apparently, "many people are misinformed that Japanese ODA is used to export promotion and only benefits Japanese companies. Actually, this was over time from the 1960s to the mid-1980s. But things have since changed," the mission pointed out.

During the first eight months of the year, the Tokyo government had provided over P5.6 billion in ODA to the Philippines.

The funds went to the following projects: climate change and disaster mitigation-related initiatives, P1.27 billion; health, P579.3 million; education, P686.8 million; agriculture, P366.1 million; energy, P308.1 billion; peace process, P170.7 million; and flood control, P5.9 million, among others.

The embassy recently cited their "Provincial Computers for Public Schools Project" as "part of Japan's initiative aimed to narrow the international digital divide between developed and developing countries."

The project "symbolizes Japan's strong support to IT education in the Philippines as we recognize the major role of IT in the global economy," said Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Shikata Bunzou.

It also "attests to Japan's continued commitment to support the Philippine government under the new leadership of President Aquino," Bunzou added.

This year, a large portion of Japanese ODA was in the form of soft loans, like the P8 billion used for the rehabilitation of infrastructure damaged last year by Typhoon "Ondoy," P6 billion for the construction of the Iloilo Bridge in Ilocos Norte, and another P5 billion by the construction of the Cebu South Coastal Road Tunnel.

According to the embassy, "ODA loans are more effective in facilitating development in middle-level developing countries."

The same loans also "make it possible for recipient governments to invest in large-scale socio-economic infrastructures, as well as respond to the vast fund demands of countries that grant current aid."

"Loan conditions under Japanese ODA are extremely concessional. On the average, the interest rates averages 1.56 percent with a repayment term of 33 years and 344 months, including a grace period of nine years and 10 months," explained the embassy.

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Good barangay gov't class inspires new politics

From page A1

JunCon is famously known as the barangay capitals of Baclac Hall, probably the richest local government unit (LGU) in the country. Upon completing the 32-hour-day workshop, he proclaimed in his classmates: "God must be the benchmen of our barangay work. It may be an impossible dream, but yes, the Filipino can!"

Making a difference

JunCon's enthusiasm moved Cuna, his teacher in barangay law, to run for barangay captain in Magallanes, another rural district of Village in Makati City.

Cuna is not new to politics, being the husband of Pimentel's daughter Cuna, herself a lawyer, but this time Cuna wants "to make a difference" in an active way by putting his legal training to the service of his barangay.

"There is so much we can do at the barangay level. This is where democracy takes root," he said.

Cuna is bringing a professional campaign to the barangay, pledging improved public works and social services. He is running on a platform of "transparency, accountability and partnership" with the voters.

"It is time for us to serve our people in reverse," he said.

Another runs on public service is Ilustrisima Ramos, whose barangay in Tondo is the polar opposite of JunCon's fabulously wealthy Forbes Park.

"Upon reading of Senator Pimentel's seminar, Good Barangay Governance for National Transformation, right away in my mind [I knew] this is the one I am looking for to prepare myself in the new journey of my life, which is [as] a barangay official," Ramos said.

Shifting to Filipino, he said he was not wrong in finding topics that clarified in his mind's but he was ready to face the future as a barangay official.

P53-B budget

Voters will go to the polls on Monday to elect the chair and seven members of more than 42,000 barangays nationwide.

The over 300,000 barangay officials, together with a youth representative from the Sangguniang Kabataan, are anchored by law to disburse some P50 billion for local economic development projects and services under the Local Government Code of 1991 authored by Pimentel.

The barangays also craft their local economic development programs, which they send to Congress to form the backbone of the economic development plan at the grassroots level.

To most Filipinos, the barangay hall for their only hands-on experience in democracy at work. Yet many pay little attention to the barangay officials they elect.

After completing his first term in the Senate last June to cap 40 years of outstanding public service, Pimentel was invited by then Vice President-elect Jejomar Binay to put up the Center for Good Governance at UMak.

The partnership produced the Pimentel Institute of Leadership and Governance, now rolled simply the Institute of Integrity.

The idea was first proposed to Pimentel two years ago by then Makati Mayor Binay and subsequently endorsed by evangelical friends as well as Catholic Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez.

The institute now has a permanent home on the fourth floor of UMak.

"I appreciate the efforts of Senator Pimentel to drive home to the [awakening] participants the essence of public service based on moral values," said Gary C. Alejano of Barangka Magdalo, Barangay 7 in Mandaluyong City. "We need to empower our smallest unit of political subdivision, the barangay, as it is the direct face of our government."

Said SPO2 Romeo R. Garrido of Pod Area in Tacloban City: "I become more inspired to continue my mission, aspirations and passion for national transformation through Godly wisdom."

A noble profession

The Institute of Integrity's inaugural workshop last month and a sequel last week trained barangay officials and civic-minded residents to pursue Pimentel's lifelong dream to put integrity back in public service, help rid the government of corruption and transform government politics into a noble profession.

Together with Dean Ederwin Tapia of UMak's School of Governance and Public Policy, the institute is designing a bachelor's degree and a masteral program for those seeking a professional career in public service, similar to Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government in the United States.

In the workshops workshops conducted recently, participants were schooled in national governance in the barangay—probably the only LGU most Filipinos will get to know in their lifetime.

Said Pimentel: "Those of us who go into public service do so not to line our pockets with money and live in mansions but to become truly the servants of the people, not their masters."

Pimentel himself teaches the course Public Service Is a Calling, Corruption and Power and Authority.

Academics and private-sector volunteers handle the other courses: Pillars of Good Governance, Issue Topic; Evolution of the Barangay Given Units; Leadership and Core Values; Ring Power; Barangay Justice; Legislative; Barangay Commissions and Emergency Situations; Resources Mobilization; Barangay Powers, Functions and Funding; Prof. Terry Dumagpin, who helped draft the Local Government Code of 1991; Identifying Local Concerns; Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo; Good Practices in Barangay Governance; Dr. Procopio E. De Vera; Planning, Hugh Nguyen; Assisting Presidents of the World; architect Tey Cunanan; and Keeping in Touch, Prof. Raymund John D'Hanoolo.

Empowering experience

The first batch of participants handled two 12-hour-day workshops in the craft and science of local governance with an ethical twist—delivering government service in the grassroots with competence and integrity.

Some people raise their eyebrows when told about Pimentel's dream, dubbing it in kin to Don Quixote's impossible dream. But the local government officials who went through the various workshops confident it could be done as they returned to their communities in the far corners of the archipelago.

"It was an enlightening, empowering and enriching experience," said Julie T. Plazos of the Visayan Forum Foundation. "I will impart what I learned in the regions and provinces which have been working with LGUs to craft policy advocacy agenda and plans."

"I learned more knowledge so that I could become a better Pasong Barangay to my constituents," said Estanislo D. Mercio of Barangay 878 in Manila.

"This seminar gave me hope of transformation," said Elena H. Marabese of Barangay Guadalupe Nuevo in Makati.

Libay 12, Pasugon of Barangay San Juan in Cuina, Bicol, said she was struck by "the realization of how big is the responsibility this small grouping of barangays to change the world!"

Uniquely Filipino

The only soldiers in the country were soldiers, who served in boats called "balangay." They named their settlements after their boats.

The Spanish colonial government changed it to barangay which the Americans changed to barrio.

In prehispanic times, the barangay operated as the basic unit of government under a chief, usually the wisest, bravest and/or richest man. The position was passed on from father to son until the people tired of his performance and replaced him with a leader who served them better.

The present system was established by the Local Government Code. It is uniquely Filipino in that all governmental powers—executive, legislative and judicial—are lodged in the barangay, much like the centralized traditional system of the datus.

The author is chief executive of her bills consulting, a think tank specializing in analyzing social, political, cultural and technological trends (see business arrangements this week. E-mail: malicsmm@gmail.com. For inquiries on this column, e-mail pimentelcolumn@yahoo.com.

PIMENTEL, Author of the Local Government Code of 1991

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High court vs UP Law

From page A1

UP LAW DEAN RANDY LEDESMA: We have produced many lawyers and they have offered to represent us. PHOTOGRAPHS

THE GODDESS TO: Comfort women case has been manipulated.

GATHERING OF LEGAL EAGLES Representatives of the 27 respondents from the UP College of Law faculty hold a press conference at the UP Law Center in Diliman, Quezon City, on Friday led by former Dean Merlin Magallona (left) and Dean Evalyn Ricaforte.

Jorge of Law's building in UP Diliman.

"Young dashing lawyers, we teach our students that anybody who has himself as a lawyer has a bad for a client. So that is why all of us are getting our own counsels. And we are trying to be the best possible clients for our graduates and colleagues," Lerma said, eliciting laughter from those present.

'Voice lang'

The tribunal's "show cause" order to the 37 law professors has drawn strong criticism from other lawyers, including legislators.

Asked yesterday to comment, Supreme Court spokesperson and administrator Jose Midas Marquez said all talk of the show cause order's "chilling effect" and expression of support for the law professors were "premature."

"Let's comply with the order. Then see why we shouldn't be sanctioned for saying these statements. Sa tingin lang," he said.

Marquez claimed that the high court had been tolerant and open to criticisms, including from the media, but had not mentioned anyone.

"Sa totoo lang, there are limits," he said. "Hindi naman pwede lahat na lang pabalandyanin ng korte [The court can't just let everything pass]. All they have to do is explain why they came out with the statement and maybe that's why they said. Apparently, they understand that it is their duty to criticize, but they should put it [in their explanations]."

Apart from Leonen, the 37 law professors were consulting with lawyers include former law deans Pacifico Ballantes, Pacifico Agabin, Merlin Magallona and Salvador Carlos.

All 37 had their signatures on the UP law faculty's statement condoning that Del Castillo had plagiarized his works of three foreign legal luminaries in writing the decision on the Vinuya, et al. v. the Executive Secretary, et al. case, and calling on him to resign.

Judicial restraint

Another expression of support for the law professors was aired yesterday by San Pedro Congressman Len Pangilinan.

In a statement, Pangilinan said it would be better for the tribunal to "move on" and consider the matter closed.

"Judicial restraint will best serve the interest of the Supreme Court," the senator said. "With all due respect, the Supreme Court should learn to exercise its battles and, to my mind, this isn't one of them."

Pangilinan cited the dissenting opinion by associate Justice Lourdes Sereno, who argued that the text of the decision written by Del Castillo "itself reveals the evidentiary deficiency."

"The position taken by the UP faculty members on the issue finds solid support and is buttressed by the dissenting opinion of Justice Sereno," Pangilinan said.

"The law alone should prove that there is no basis to sanction the UP College of Law faculty members," he said.

In her dissenting opinion, Sereno warned that the high court ruling on the plagiarism case "undermined the protection of copyrighted work by making available to plagiarists 'lack of malicious intent' as a defense ..."

Comfort women's plight

Therefore It said that most of those who signed the statement, like himself, had to one way or another been involved in the fight for justice for the comfort women whom Japanese soldiers used as sex slaves during World War II.

It told reporters that the delegation presented in the case filed against the government by lawyers Harry Roque and Theodore Te on behalf of the comfort women led by Lolas Ninita Vinuya was a "moral idea" developed by UP law professor Jonas Bautista when she was a student.

"The idea was that the plight of comfort women is a state-sponsored-ship," It said.

The senator, through Roque and Baguers, wrote the Philippine government to seek an apology and compensation from the Japanese government.

Sereno was among the law faculty members who, because they are overseas, were unable to sign the statement and just sent their concurrence by e-mail.

She obtained her master's degree at Yale University and is now a clerk at the International Court of Justice in The Hague in the Netherlands.

Case marginalized

Magallona, an international law expert, said the Supreme Court's decision on Vinuya, et al. might have also violated the Bevis Convention, an international treaty that protects intellectual property rights and that counts the Philippines among the signatories.

Mary Jerusha, a professor at the UP College of Social Work and Community Development, said that amid the ruckus over the plagiarism issue and now the show-cause order on the UP law faculty, the comfort women and their fight for justice had been "marginalized" once again.

"They are dying off one by one. They haven't gotten justice and now they are just a side issue. Let us not forget that there are people waiting for justice," Salcedo said at the press conference. With a report from Christine V. Esguerra

Pagasa: New storm due today but will most likely spare RP

From page A1

RELIEF RELAY Filipino policemen and American soldiers join hands in loading relief goods into a US CH-46 Sea Knight chopper for distribution to the devastated area of Isabela province on Friday.

THIS IS TAIWAN Vehicles are submerged in floodwaters in Xinzhuang, Taipei City, on Typhoon "Mangkhut" on Thursday. Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau issued a warning against Mangkhut (Super typhoon "Yutu" in the Philippines) as torrential rains caused landslides and interrupted railway traffic.

worn as of yesterday morning.

A second tropical depression has formed in the Pacific but is still too far to affect the country, Pagasa said. It was located about 2,000 km from the country and could have weaken and dissipate.

Rains over weekend

Residents of western Luzon and Visayas should expect rains over the weekend, Pagasa said.

It said the rains and winds which halted the country's morning were said to the effects of rain, which pounded northern and central Luzon earlier this week, killing dozens of villagers and destroying crops and infrastructure worth at least P6.1 billion.

"There is less possibility that it (Rating) is going to be as strong as Rosita," Pagasa chief Nathaniel Rosell said.

Barring was packing winds of 55 kph, moving westward at 10 kph, and might "intensify into a typhoon" but "is not a threat," Sand said.

In a 5 p.m. bulletin, Pagasa said Metro Manila and other major cities in Luzon would experience a rainy Saturday with thunderstorms. From Sunday to Tuesday, most of Luzon will be cloudy to partly cloudy with rain showers, it said.

The rest of the Philippines will be cloudy or partly cloudy with isolated rain showers and thunderstorms.

Isabela relocation

Malacañang yesterday said action would be taken to relocate residents in the coastal areas of Isabela to avoid a repeat of the devastation that hit their communities when Rosita struck the region.

Presidential spokesperson Harry Lacierda said some residents were refusing to transfer to other places as part of the government's long-term plan to minimize tragedies.

"We were informed that some residents still want to remain. I think (President Aquino) would be directing the local government to do the necessary action. I'm sure [Interior Secretary Ismael Sueroso] will be taking action," Lacierda told reporters.

Lacierda indicated the planned relocation would take into consideration the residents' livelihood but the presidential concern was the residents' safety.

"I think any decision will be made by the governor and secretary of interior and local government," he said.

Agricultural damage

Rachel, 80, Agabin said residents in the area would have to go, "We will convince the residents of these coastal areas to get to a safer area from where they are now," he said.

The Department of Agriculture said damage to agriculture from typhoon Rosita, "Lower on the agriculture sector in terms of production and infrastructure is now estimated at P 6.19 billion," it said.

According to the DA, "preliminary loss of the the sector is pegged at P6.02 billion." It said, lowed by high value commercial crops at P660.28 million."

The crop sector suffered losses pegged at P366.05 million. Damage to fishery was estimated at P9.48.06 million, while livestock losses were valued at P93.59 million.

Hardest-hit areas

Pangasinan and Isabela suffered the biggest losses estimated at P5.26 billion and P1.26 billion, respectively. Isabela is the country's second biggest rice-producing province, while Pangasinan is the fifth.

Agriculture Undersecretary Joel Rodriga said farmers were trying to recover their palay losses that was submerged by Juan's waters.

"Almost all of the hectarage have chances of recovery," he said.

The DA said a total of 117,111 hectares of rice fields were affected, resulting in the loss of 353,415 metric tons (MT) of palay worth P6.00 billion from 14 provinces.

"Although the palay was really soaked in water, there's a chance that they can be recovered. As long as they are not soaked for three to five days, the palay can be used," Rodriga said.

Crop insurance

The farmlands affected represented 17.8% percent of the total 1.8 million hectares exposed to be harvested during the October-December period, the DA said.

The Philippine crop insurance Corp. (PCIC) said it would pay a total of P161.41 million in indemnities to 17,200 farmers who insured their rice and corn crops this cropping season against loss.

PCIC president Jesy Dimaano said the amount would go mainly to rice and corn farmers in Central Luzon who insured their crops with the agency.

The farmers will get a total indemnity of P80,729 million. Cagayan Valley farmers will receive a total of P43.754 million, while Ilocos (Region 1) farmers will get P21.546 million.

Death toll

The official death toll from Juan's onslaught has risen to 20 as of yesterday. This included a 61-year-old man who died of hypothermia in San Fernando, Ong La Union, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council said.

But Agnes Francis-Pruno, spoking Red Cross data, put the death toll at 26.

At least 34 persons were injured while four others were reported missing.

Some 1.31 million people or 231 thousand families suffered losses and property damage or lost their sources of livelihood.

Many affected families were also ill Nido victims who have not yet recovered from the Oct. 10 bomb threat due to the pending day spell, according to the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

As of yesterday morning, nearly 11,000 people were still in evacuation centers.

With reports from Norman Bordadora, Ilona Pineda, Raquel Avel MP

5,000 panic over fake warning about San Roque Dam spill

From page A1

meeting in Camp Aguinaldo yesterday.

"They want us to fail. They want to show that the government is a failure," he said.

Barzaga appealed to non-spammers not to meddle with disaster-related advisories.

He said the text message warned those living along Agno River that the San Roque Dam would open all of its six gates and release an unprecedented amount of water within eight hours.

The message said the warning came from a certain Rolly Barzaga who it said was the provincial administrator.

"This is not true because the water in the San Roque Dam has not even reached spilling level. It's not even full yet," Ramos said.

"Can you imagine 5,000 people [evacuating]? That's the effect," he added.

Ramos said the public should only believe information issued by the NDRRMC, the Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, the Office of Civil Defense and their provincial and municipal governments.

No way of tracing

According to Ramos, some 5,000 Pangasinan residents rushed to the regional headquarters of the DCD last Thursday because of the false advisory.

Unfortunately, he said there was no way of tracing and apprehending the culprit as he could have easily disposed of the SIM card used to send out the text message.

People who spread disinformation at a time of disaster are "crazy," he said.

Ramos disclosed that another spam text message was circulating last Thursday warning of a supposed tsunami hitting a coastal town in Ilocos but which turned out a joke.

"And during (Typhoon) Ompong (last July), they hacked my website ... Please ignore the NDRRMC because we are saving lives and property," he said.

Celeb Chile miners want simple lives back

From page A1

promise of untold riches from book contracts and movie deals.

The miners say they want their old lives back.

"Sometimes, I think it was much better to be the mine," said Omar Reygadas, 50, who scarcely a week ago was being pulled above ground after 69 days entombed in the underground cavern.

Reygadas said in an interview with the daily El Mercurio newspaper that the weeklong media frenzy surrounding his rescue has proved almost more than he can bear.

"The whole situation has made me jittery; I can't sleep very well," he said.

'Rock stars'

The miners, humble day laborers who earned their living by the sweat of their brow, last week became unlikely rock stars, after surviving a harrowing ordeal 700 meters deep underground at the San Jose gold and copper mine.

Hundreds of journalists from every corner of the globe descended upon Chile to document their amazing tale of survival against the odds, after they originally were given up for dead in the Aug. 5 cave-in.

Since their dramatic rescue, every step of the men's lives has been painstakingly documented, including the tearful reunions with anxious loved ones and the first days in their humble dwellings after having taken home.

Relentless scrutiny

The men said their living compartments in close quarters within the mine was hard, but not nearly as challenging as the constant glare of television lights and relentless public scrutiny.

"I'm extremely exhausted from being besieged by the press, tired of all the events and appointments with officials," said Mario Gomez, at 63 years old the dominoes grandfather of the group.

"I hope that all of this quiets down pretty soon," he said.

In the days leading up to and immediately after the men being brought above ground, television stations around the globe devoted hours of nonstop coverage to the rescue, and newspapers thousands of inches away. Inside Slate's 8 roll-page story.

'Fame not for me'

Rescue miner Mario Sepulveda says he has had enough.

"The haranguing by the national and foreign press has been fairly relentless.

"Writes in fame," he told AP television. "Fame it's not for me." Not all the miners, however, have had their fill of TV cameras and klieg lights. Four of the men—Ariel Ticona, Victor Segovia, Edelson Rojas and Pablo Rodas—were on their way to Spain Thursday to take part in a 6-hour long television special program.

And all the miners attended a gala party organized earlier this week by Chilean billionaire Leonardo Farkas, screening magnate whose party favors for each of the men included their very own motorbike.

Earlier, Farkas made presents to the men of $10,000 checks and even promised to purchase new homes for any who were renters.

Media tips

Even while they were still trapped in the mine, experts anticipated the current media onslaught and tried to prepare the miners by giving them training on how to handle television and newspaper interviews.

Experts said the fever pitch celebrity has put the men at even greater psychological risk than was feared as a result of what he has endured from physically and emotionally possibly debilitating.

"What has hurt the men most is the lack of a chance to rest," said psychologist Alberto Iturra, head of a team of mental health psychologists assisting the mine's well-being.

"They need to rest," he said.

Missing the mine

But it said it was to be expected that the men would begin to resent their newfound celebrity, and that they would soon begin to miss the relative quiet and camaraderie of the mine.

"It's only natural that, after five or six days, they would begin to miss each other and would feel a bit homesick for the mine, which was so much more peaceful and where they had so much more control over their surroundings," Iturra said.

The psychologist added that he and other mental health experts would continue to monitor the men's every move and help them deal with their sudden fame.

"We're going to accompany them all the time, for as long as necessary," he said.

A7

THE SPOTLIGHT BURNS 'EM OUT Rescued miners Juan Illanes and Edison Peña raise their hands during a ceremony in their honor in Caldera, Chile, on Tuesday.

LINGERING TRAUMA Rescued miner Edison Peña is comforted by fellow miner Juan Illanes during a ceremony honoring the rescued miners.

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NBI told: Find Ping, but there's no hurry

By Marlon Ramos

NBI Director Nonnatus Rojas told Justice Secretary Leila de Lima to recommend, giving law enforcement agencies an ultimatum to produce accused murderer Sen. Panfilo Lacson may be unnecessary.

The justice secretary, who had openly expressed her disgust at the failure of the agencies to locate Lacson, also shot down proposals to form a task force to track the fugitive senator.

"There's no need for a task force," De Lima told reporters after unveiling a conference with officials of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday.

She explained, "There are (NBI and police) teams already (going after Lacson). So it's just a matter of intensifying the manhunt."

She added, "There's no need for any time frame because I will continuously monitor (the NBI's operations)."

De Lima met with the NBI officials a day after she announced that she would be directly leading efforts to find Lacson.

In the meeting, she said, she reiterated her directive to "fill Director Magnaguad Gatdula to reinvigorate the agency's efforts to track Lacson."

No stones unturned

"I just told them to constantly their operations. I told them that no stones should be left unturned and to validate information they received on the about Lacson," she said.

Lacson, a police general-turned-politician, had gone into hiding after a Manila regional trial court ordered his arrest early this year in connection with the the killing of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, almost 10 years ago.

He was named by his former subordinates, former Senior Supt. Cesar Mancao, as the mastermind of the Dacer-Corbito double-murder.

Still validating

De Lima declined to provide more details about the efforts of NBI officials in looking for the fugitive, saying the agency was still validating information.

But Gatdula himself said NBI members had been dispatched to go after Lacson, his former boss which he served under the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crimes Task Force.

He said NBI agents were closely coordinating with their counterparts at the Philippine National Police to verify information that Lacson was actually hiding out abroad but inside the country.

Gatdula maintained that his personal relationship with his former superior would have no bearing on his duty as a law enforcer.

"I've answered that time and again," he said. "We have our own duties."

De Lima disclosed that she would meet with Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo to explore the suggestion of putting up a cash reward to harvest Lacson's apprehension.

"The bounty will be subject of a study. I will discuss it with Jesse Robredo," she said.

Liquor ban on tomorrow

By Alexis Pays

THE PHILIPPINE National Police (PNP) is set to go on full alert today and will implement a liquor ban tomorrow in preparation for Monday's barangay and youth council elections.

Police Director Benjamin Ineleminiano, the PNP's Deputy Chief for Operations and head of Task Force Account, Orderly, Peaceful Elections (TFOPE), said the 150,000-strong PNP will go on full alert on Saturday to till a.m. the said the liquor ban will be implemented starting 12 midnight of Sunday.

A full alert means all PNP personnel will stay at their posts or all times. All leaves by police officers are also cancelled.

Ineleminiano also said the PNP will monitor closely a total of 2003 barangays considered as election hotspots around the country. The country has a total 42,025 barangays.

Ineleminiano said the hotspots are located in the nonconvenors Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Region 12. Also considered as hotspots are barangays in Western province in Region 8 and Abra in the Cordillera region.

Class of '85 to host UP law reunion

THE UP College of Law silver jubilarian class of 1985 will host the 2010 UP Law grand alumni homecoming on Nov. 19 at the Rizal Ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The guest of honor and speaker is Presidente Aquino. UP President Emerlinda Roman will deliver an inspirational speech. College of Law Dean Marvic Leonen will deliver a message from the dean and UP Law class '85 president, J Cantada II Castro will make the welcome remarks.

Members of Class of 1985 include president Angel Gozum Edwardo de Mesa, Solicitor General Jose Anselmo Cadiz, Deputy Executive Secretary Evelyn Pitacio, Administration Undersecretary Alberto Magpa, Assistant Solicitor General Renato Santos, House of Representatives Secretary-general Marilyn Barua-Yap and Deputy Secretary-general Arlene Dada-Antonio, Commission on Human Rights Executive Director Jacqueline Ann de Guia, Judges Ramon Bato, Judge Sol Olan de Rivera, Judge Edgar Santos, former Press Secretary Mike Toledo, Sarian representatives Jing Paras, Romeo Catalan and Ray Lejano, Senate Colonel Commissioner Rafael Sadain, former National Telecommunications Commission chairman Ronald Olivar, Virgie Sella, Jhonny Ang Ong, Maurice Brondial, Jojo Alfado, and former Immigration Commissioner Jun Salvidio.

Entertainment, raffle

Jun Lucero, chairperson of the grand alumni homecoming, said that for the ticket price of P12,000, UP grads will enjoy dinner and superb entertainment and have a chance to win raffle prizes.

Renowned singer Leo Salonga, Lawrence Olivier Awards and Tony Awards winner, Hollywood Olympics champion vocal performer of the world's Jed Madela, and OPM champion dancing squad UP pep squad will be providing world class entertainment.

The original members of the UP Law Chariveri (the only glee club based in a college of law in the country) will be reunited under the baton of its original conductor, Nestore Bulalacao.

For inquiries on tickets and souvenir program ads, please get in touch with Atty. Ben Armstrong Bautista (chair, invitations and ads committee), at 9330371 or mobile number 09175706605 or any of the other following officers of UP Law Class of 1985: J Castro, Jhong Somera, Dot Gatchalian, Marvic Madrid-Leonen, Melva Bocaquelor-Valdez, Tigerfaye Juan, Bernadette Gales-Suarez, Joy Peron, Sabino Padilla, Mike Toledo, Melvin Sagadon-Saldajeno, Elsa Divinagracia, Ogie Narvasa and Linda Gimena.

Artemio Santiago; 89

ARTEMIO "Tommy" Santiago of Zamboanga City died on Thursday at the age of 89.

He is survived by his wife Claude L. Santiago, children and in-laws Charito and Jong Santiago, Pilar and Eming Santiago, Lulu and John Paz, John Santiago, Tony Santiago, Simone and Joe Ayson, Lina and Eddie Santiago, Lolita and Ken Yuseco, children and grandchildren.

His body lies at the La Merced Memorial Homes on Alvarez Street, Zamboanga City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at Sunset Lake Memorial, Tetuan, Zamboanga City.

Piatco wants Naia 3 concessionaires evicted

By Jerome Aning

LAWYERS REPRESENTING the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. (Piatco) have questioned the legal status of runway operators at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal (Naia) 3.

In a letter dated Oct. 19, lawyers Delfin Manuel Jr. and Ursula Domingo of the Quisumbing Torres Picha & Sciascia law firm told the concessionaires that they had been illegally occupying spaces in the Naia 3 without authority from Piatco, which, according to the lawyers, was the owner of the terminal.

"The writ of possession issued in 2006 did not transfer ownership of the facilities to the government. The right to exercise acts of ownership remains with Piatco until ownership is transferred to the government upon payment of just compensation," the lawyers said.

Manuel and Domingo said that the Supreme Court decision on the matter had emphasized that the title to the property would only be vested in the Philippine government upon full payment of just compensation to Piatco.

"This has not happened yet. Any person using the facility without authority from Piatco violates Piatco's rights of ownership as well as the [lower court's order affirmed by the Supreme Court," they said.

The lawyers called on the concessionaires to cease and desist from occupying, using or operating any part of Naia 3.

"This is without prejudice to Piatco's right to claim rentals from [concessionaires] for the use of the Main Terminal 3. Piatco reserves all rights and waives none," the lawyers added.

Cebu Pacific, one of the recipients of the letter, said in a statement that "Piatco should direct its concerns to the Philippine government."

The airline said it started its operations at Naia 3 on July 22, 2008 upon the invitation of the Philippine government and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA). It had since then been operating both domestic and international flights in Naia 3.

"Cebu Pacific will continue to work with the MIAA regarding its Naia 3 operations to ensure its continued service to the traveling public," the airline added.

Other concessionaires that got a similar letter were the Promdutch Specialty Shop, Stylized Stationers, Yellow Cab Food Corp., Sweet Mom/Bread & Cakes and CMG Trading.

Piatco is a consortium led by the Germon Soo Project and its local partner Philcargo. It had been seeking more than $1 billion in payment following the Philippine government's decision to abrogate the contract awarded to Piatco for the construction of NIA 3 and to order the expropriation of the facility.

The tribunal later ruled that the contract was void from the start. However, it allowed Piatco the right to secure compensation from the government.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Open season

LET'S SAY someone, for whatever reason, takes someone else's child and spirits him away to another place without notifying the parents. When the child is finally found, the offender is charged with kidnapping. He finally contests the charge. Not guilty, he says. He merely wanted to show the child the Ferris wheel. Let him ride the swing. Walk on the beach. He had no malicious intent when he took the child.

EDITORIAL

How do you react to such a defense? You drag the kidnapper to jail. And, for good measure, aside incur he can share. Where he took possession of the child without the parents' consent, whatever motive he had—and however laudatory he might think it was—would have no bearing on the criminal nature of the act itself. Malicious intent? In an open-and-shut kidnapping case, the concept would not even merit a mention.

Now, how about kidnapping words and ideas? Like using someone else's written work and passing it off as one's own, totally without attribution? Not a teeny line or one unconscious phrase, but whole paragraphs—and from not one, but three different, separate sources? What if the offending party defends his larcenous action as completely absorbed and because it lacks "malicious intent" or is not "injured with fraud, corruption or malice"?

The Supreme Court of the Philippines introduced that phraseology into the straightforward case of associate Justice Mariano C. del Castillo who was accused of plagiarism for having copied verbatim, from audio-closed sources, excessive portions of the majority decision he wrote in the case of Vinuya v. Executive Secretary.

Parts of the ruling were found to have been a composition of passages lifted from three sources: "A Fiduciary Theory of Jus Cogens" by Evan Criddle and Evan Fox-Decent; "Breaking the Silence: Rape as an International Crime" by Mark Ellis, and "Enforcing Erga Omnes Obligations in International Law" by Christian Tams.

Relating this sorry incident to the moral and legal quandaries presented by the crime of actual kidnapping is not as farfetched as it may sound. "Plagiarism," after all, comes from the Latin word that literally means "kidnapping"—"plagiarius." To plagiarize another person's thoughts, expressions, ideas or creative work and pass it off as one's own is, in effect, kidnapping in a different guise. And where the proof lies in the simple act of comparing the two works in question side by side—word for word and line by line—and concluding from there that one had indeed copied from the other, "malicious intent," whatever it is in this case, would not even be a question.

What is new beyond dispute about Del Castillo's actions? Whole paragraphs and arguments—from across all three sources—were found verbatim in a decision he penned, without attribution. More than 20 passages were confirmed written not by Del Castillo's hand. His excuse? That his legal researches accidentally mixed two citations in the footnotes.

This defense, so laughable in its crudeness yet so contemptible in its presumption that sensible people would easily see through it, was amazingly accepted by 10 of the eminent justices of the Supreme Court. They absolved Del Castillo of wrongdoing, attributed the scandalous incident to the chaotician of an underling it conveniently refused to name or punish, and then—the icing on the cake—cashed on the supposed lack of "malicious intent" on Del Castillo's part as the definitive proof of his innocence.

Student into cheating must now be cheering the Supreme Court's dazzling wisdom. Anytime they are caught plagiarizing, they have recourse to a brand-new and sturdy defense: they merely forgot a footnote or two. See, no malicious intent. Hey, it worked for a justice of the Supreme Court. Why not for them?

In a blistering dissenting opinion, Associate Justice Lourdes Sereno decried the majority decision as having "created unimaginable problems for Philippine academia, which will from now on have to find a disciplinary response to plagiarism committed by students and researchers..."

The ruling, in effect, scatterbrain kidnapping—"plagiarism"—as henceforth permissible when it comes to intellectual property. It declares nothing less than an open season on the work of every thinking, writing, existing person in the world.

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Feedback

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"SO WE are in now Supreme Court Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno another cecilia Muñoz Palma, the [one] who used the distance to deliver!" asks Senator Francis Escudero. She cheers Sereno's dissent against a decision that cleared Justice Mariano del Castillo from charges of plagiarism. Three opinions (both here both).

Lawyers Harry Roque and Romel Bagares slammed Del Castillo's decision in Vinuya v. Executive Secretary (GR No. 162230) which was riddled with uncredited quotations.

Even footnotes were scissored from Evan Criddle and Evan Fox-Decent's essay—"A Fiduciary Theory of Jus Cogens,"—then applied to the decision. The authors complained of the literary hijack.

Zamora bristled Sereno for calling plagiarism by its right name. More important, Sereno pointed at the future consequences of the Court's majority decision, namely: no plagiarism seems if there is "no malicious intent."

In future plagiarism decisions, malicious intent must be proved. "Complete forging errors" were given an exemplary role. The Court did not clarify whether this "blame Microsoft" attribution applied only to political decision making.

"This Court rendered tyrannous its ability to positively educate and influence the future of intellectual and academic discourse." Tarnished undercover Sereno's prediction the decision will trigger "unimaginable problems" for Filipino scholars in the future.

"It really pained us that the justices redefined the meaning of plagiarism," e-mailed Ms. Adelaida Roque, former research director at De La Salle University. It bars guideline to indicate direct quotes is to use quotation marks or to indent quoted passages, says Roque who teaches research at St. Paul's University. "Injustice not why the master thesis' direct quotes were not indented by Justice Del Castillo's researchers from the main text. That alerts readers that verbatim passages (are) not being passed off as one's own.

"If this were done, the 'accidental deletion' of footnotes may be forgivable," this professor adds. The failure to include direct quotes is not mere sloppy research writing.

There indicate several dictatorship.

"It was right that [one] citizen bought Philippine Airways up short on his civil duties of the budget," lawyer Carmen Mendoza quoted from James Orr.

Is it too much to expect the Pampanga congressperson to solve the mess of crouching a P12-billion budget gap in the education department's budget? "There seem to be hump units tucked away all over the place," Sereno's representative as saying.

Lump sums are called "one liners." They are appropriations without program breakdowns. "Schools is subject to presidential discretion and often without audit."

Pie must go away with lump sums. They have a history of abuse. But what galls is Enquirer's attack Arroyo's attempts on her "one liners." She assumes that ordinary taxpayers, like us, have no say.

Due to our presidents' standard P224 billion worth of "one liners" into the last budget—with the convenience of legislators who've since abandoned her. "That was 16 percent of the proposed P1.41 trillion budget," in fact, she fueled a P224.4 billion "one liner" into the education department.

By embers Philippine Human Development Report's comment. "In the spirit of transparency, it is crucial to find out which of those 'one liners' are actually backed up by plans and programs. Taxpayers deserve a right to know which are simply discretionary funds."

From Washington, D.C., Asian Messengers slams the former president's take on "one liner" in the appropriations bill before Congress.

"Gloria harms the in me and me. As they say, it takes one to know one! She and her cronies were masters of the art—and perhaps way, way more. They were able to insure their own interests with impunity. Isn't that why the Philippines is so poor?

"Let us just hope and perhaps pray that the Aquino leadership will not follow in their footsteps. Just, alas, our country won't all the forces at the same time. Cynically speaking, we are all human with best of day, as they say, doomed to be stripped oh, 'nothing' and then shadowed by some more and more."

Thank you for the bloopers relative "Kindergarten 101" Bienvido, 10/16/16), writes daughter Lourdes from Sen York. Word is classic used. It is almost biblical to tell about fungus.

"Filipinos believe their words abroad, by voice or them. The healing program that my friends and I support, in a fantasy school in Iloilo, is now up in second year.

"We have increased the recipients. They now include students other than those in Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2. The program provides hot morning snacks through one the schoolyear.

"Such efforts bring, in their train, corollary issues. One is 'weaning' the school and the barangay, so they take over the financing part. We believe it is a good idea to own a project. It is also a responsible thing to do but something they all can be proud of.

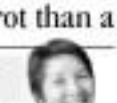
"We are working folk, not millionaires. We do not have the resources to support the program indefinitely. There is a limit to how long one can 'share' the generosity of family and friends. Also, we'd like to help other but target schools near their own feeding programs.

"It is not easy trying to teach a man how to fish instead of simply giving him fish because poverty is endemic and pervasive. We're trying to come up with livelihood initiatives to benefit the barangay's unemployed and underemployed.

"But most of the time we feel like we are dealing with an issue that is way over our head, or even an issue that we cannot wrap our head around."

(Email: jmanilaworks@gmail.com)

Better a carrot than a stick



GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

LET SEE make it quite clear: I am pro-life, pro-poor, pro-women, and therefore, like most Filipinos (average of 82 percent according to a Pulse Asia survey, but ranging from 76 percent to 91 percent across all geographic, income and socio-economic classes), I am in favor of the government providing family planning information and services to those who want to be so informed and/or who want to either space or limit their children.

Why does adopting this stance make me pro-life? Because it will reduce the shockingly high maternal mortality rates as well as infant/child mortality rates (the probability of which increases as when the mother dies) in the Philippines. Why shockingly high? Only some 4,500 maternal deaths occurred in the Philippines in 2008, compared to 2,300 for all the developed regions combined (Europe, United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand); and 2,700 maternal deaths in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam combined, whose total population is twice that of ours. Is that shocking enough?

Why will it reduce the mortality rates? Because of the more than 11 maternal deaths a day (4,100 a year) divided by 365 days), it has been found that up to half can be prevented by reducing unintended pregnancies through family planning (the next by skilled birth attendants and access to emergency obstetric care). Of the 39 infants who die per thousand live births, it has again been calculated that given the 1.71 million live births registered in 2004, at least 7,000 infant deaths a year could be prevented through proper birth spacing.

Is that pro-life enough for the reader?

Here: How does being in favor of access to family planning information and services qualify one to be pro-women? Well, aside from the fact that at least five women's lives are saved per day, there is the issue of unsafe abortion. Illnesses associated with pregnancy and childbirth/ abortion, by the way, are the top cause of female morbidities. The maternal mortalities in the Philippines (circa 2008) were estimated to be 400,000 (compared to, say, the next highest cause of female morbidity—AIDS and pneumonia—at 320,000). And again, it has been estimated that up to 400,000 maternal morbidities could be prevented through effective family planning.

Finally: Why am I for the pro-poor factor cause of? Again, empirical basis: According to the National Health and Demographic Survey (NHDS—conducted quinquennially) the poor bear the brunt of the maternal and infant mortalities, as well as the maternal morbidities. The poor have the greatest need for family planning services. How can one know this? Per the NHDS, women in the lowest wealth quintile (20 percent) have a total fertility rate of 5.2 as against their wanted fertility rate of 3.3. Compare this to women in the highest wealth quintile, whose total fertility rate is 1.9 as compared to their actual fertility rate of 2.1.6.

Now then, let me also say that I am separate-up Catholic, and I am against abortion, as are most Filipinos, which is again why we are in favor of family planning. We know that a very large percentage of unplanned pregnancies in the Philippines end up in abortions, which in turn contribute to maternal mortality, etc. etc., as discussed above. Better to prevent conception than to having an abortion performed.

So how many Filipino Catholics are in favor of family planning information and services? (only by the numbers, the 82 percent of Filipino Pulse Asia Survey 2008) are in favor, 91 percent of Filipinos are non-Catholics (2000 Census). Seventy-five all of the non-Catholics are in favor of family planning. That leaves 61 percent (82 minus 21) of the Filipinos who are in favor of family planning are Catholics. Which means that 78 percent of Filipino Catholics (61 divided by 78) are in favor of family planning.

Now that truly represents a choice—which should be at least recognized by those in the Catholic hierarchy who are against any form of family planning other than Natural Family Planning (NFP)—and even then, only the natural biology method or means method. Unfortunately, that method requires, at least for the poor, much more resources (time, privacy, literacy) than they have—which is why the method has not caught on at all.

But there is an NFP method that was discussed at a forum on the Reproductive Health Bill by my good friends Emmanuelle de los Angeles yesterday, that impressed me—and she wonders why the Catholic hierarchy (other than Archbishop Tom Legaspi) hasn't grabbed it and run with it. It is called the Standard Days Method (SDM), and its efficacy rate is reportedly 95.25 percent. Moreover, it works for women whose menstrual cycle is anywhere from 26 to 32 days, which, again reportedly, covers 80 percent of our women.

Milagros Rivera of the Institute for Reproductive Health, who discussed the different NFP methods, described the method as "Cyclebeads that is part of the SDM—a rosary-like thing which has a series of brown beads followed by a series of white beads, with one red bead (plus a directional arrow) as you know which way to go), and removable band. On day 1 of menstruation, you put the band on the red bead. And the band is moved every day so long as the bead is brown, all systems are go. When the beads are white (day 8 to day 19), time out. Etc. Pretty simple—even the band can keep count.

Instead of trying to prevent Filipinos from using artificial contraceptives, the Church hierarchy should offer an attractive alternative like the SDM. Better a carrot than a stick anytime.

Hunger down by 5 points—OK, so far

LAST SUNDAY'S report from the high 24.2% 2010 Social Weather Survey, "Hunger eases to 15.9% of families; 680k eats themselves as poor," gives, to my opinion, a more meaningful picture of the country's current economic performance than any of the various economic growth numbers being made by analysts from the government, the multilateral financial institutions and the business sector. For me, there is no genuine progress without improvement in the conditions of the economically deprived.

The new percentage of 15.9 for involuntary hunger during the third quarter is a good one by the new administration, since it is a significant 7.3 points below the 23.2 percent surveyed last June for the second quarter. But there is no room for complacency. It is only a partial recovery from the great hunger debacle from 2004 to mid-2010. Today, the recovery is strongly motivated by the Millennium Development Goal which many will not be met.

The current scale of hunger is still very large. Even with the decline, the September survey's proportion of hungry families amounts to 3.6 million for the whole country with 0.5 million in Metro Manila, 1.3 million in the Balance of Luzon, 0.6 million in the Visayas and 1.2 million in Mindanao.

The September 2010 percentage of hungry families is a very high 20.2 in Metro Manila (then the gap between rich and poor is tremendous!), followed by 16.1 in Mindanao, 15.2 in the Visayas, and 14.7 in the Balance of Luzon.

Compared to June 2010, the biggest reduction in the hunger rate was by 9.7 points in Mindanao, next by 7.7 points in the Visayas, and by 3.6 points in the Balance of Luzon, but by only 1.7 points in Metro Manila. Leaning why this uneven geographical pattern seemed requires extensive research, which NSCB could undertake.

Years ago, the scale of hunger was already much lower than now, to my July 24 column, "Haven't felt hunger so very much." I pointed out that the average quarterly percentage of hungry families was only 11.8 in 1998, the year the first hunger surveys started. Assuming it to be on the

Social Climate

Mahar Mangahas

Millennium Development Goals (MDG) trend line would put 1990 hunger at 13.1 percent, and one half of it, at the 2015 MDG, at 6.55 percent. Thus the September 2010 hunger rate of 15.9 still has very far to go.

In the remainder of the fiscals period, average hunger was 8.3 percent in 1999, and 10.8 percent in 2000, all quite moderate compared to current hunger. During the seven period 1998 to 2003, hunger ranged between 6.2 percent and 14.5 percent. Then, in the first three years of the Arroyo watch, average hunger rose 11.4 percent in 2004, and then declined first to 10.1 percent in 2005, and then to only 7.0 percent in 2009. This hunger MDG seemed within reach.

Unfortunately, in the next six years the average hunger percentage grew steadily to 11.6 in 2006, 14.3 in 2008, 16.7 in 2008, 17.8 in 2009, 18.3 in 2008, and 19.5 in 2009. All these are simple averages of the 3003 quarterly hunger figures, available on the website.

The general increase in hunger was not smooth or gradual, but jerky and volatile. After hitting 21.3 percent in September 2007 (the first time so much the 20s), hunger fell to 15.7 percent in March 2008, only to bounce back up to 20.7 percent by October 2008. Why soon, however, it fell to 15.3 percent in February 2009, only to bounce up even higher to the all-time record 24.6 percent in December 2009. It declined marginally to 23.2 percent in March 2010 and 23.1 percent in June 2010.

If some part of the enormous amount of analytical talent in economics and finance that regularly studies aggregate economic growth, the foreign exchange value of the peso, the stock market, capital inflows, etc. would see fit to study the hunger problem, the government's fiscal situation etc., could be diverted to studying what happened to hunger during 2003 to 2005, they could find the lessons behind the success of those years.

And if they could be diverted to studying hunger during 2006 up to mid-2010, they might find the causes of failure. That period is quite like with a few declines in hunger that were large and yet short-lived. Hence one should not assume that the latest decline will naturally continue; progress against hunger must be deliberately pursued, and not entrusted to luck.

Although the new administration's hunger rate, from quarter to quarter, will be subject to statistical fluctuations, it is quite obvious that the past decade they were met with unpublished programs ameliorate or else quickly reverse those official spokespersons, depending on whether the latest survey report was favorable or unfavorable.

I know of intensive fiscal research showing how pitiful is a pro-poor factors and underemployment as a secondary factor, allowing hunger. Such research also shows that aggregate economic growth has made no real dent in hunger. The countervailing of growth in hunger with growth in GDP per capita all throughout the Arroyo period is a phenomenon that is quite clear.

Analysis of the dynamics of hunger also requires consideration of natural disasters like typhoons and man-made disasters like armed conflicts. It requires access to local-level and time-series data on the National Food Authority's food stocks, and on the Department of Agriculture's rice program.

Sadly, development students are forced nowadays on watching the dollar-value of the peso, the Philippine Stock Exchange home, foreign investment and the GDP gross. They might accept that some of these things are considered only because economic deprivation, but it is not really their professional concern.

• • •

Contact SMS: www.ses.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@ses.org.ph.

Dare to dream

"YOUNG HEARTS, I believe that we are not far from becoming who we truly are..."

So goes the song from a famous band of heartthrobs. But we do not want to talk about them or any other teen sensation. While some teenagers are on their way to fame and riches, getting what they want and living a comfortable and more or less stress-free life, the majority are living a life of poverty and

...continued from page A14

away from the glitz and glamour of show business, and facing the struggles and challenges of living ordinary lives.

Young Blood

Ma. Elena Christina C. Montemayor

One of the saddest sights I see on the streets of Metro Manila is that of school children soliciting. The worst part is

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something and below — Ed.

that they are not aware of what the rise will do to their body and to their future. I can't help but pity them as they are slowly killing their lungs and their chance at a good life. They see older men light up cigarettes and they think it is okay to do it, not knowing that it is actually addicting and bad for the health. They don't realize what they have gotten themselves into at such a young age.

One other distressing experience is seeing street children go inside passing passengers on Quezon Avenue and snipe the passengers' doors with a dirty rag, in the hope of receiving some loose change. This can be abusive and I can understand why most people react to this with annoyance or disgust. Some just ignore these children completely. Sometimes I myself would do the same thing, especially when I really have nothing to give but there are also times when I would share my snacks if I have any.

Another reason I don't like giving is that I don't want them to think that when they beg, they will get something all the time. Our parents have always reminded us to be mindful of our spending for the happier times it would not do them a lot of good. Beggars, especially children, have to learn to work and earn a living.

I grew up surrounded by people either would embarrass or subsidize or whatever they may call the "rich," educated, well-mannered people. I can say there is a lot of wrong judgments and many preconceived notions about this kind of people, but they are just like everyone else. They have the same problems and struggles in life. And they have good hearts, too.

During summer breaks since I was in my third year of high school, I would go with my classmates and some other friends of ours to a rural area to teach catechism, math, English, arts and crafts, as well as to interact with kids from all walks of life. We have had great experiences interacting with the people of the barrios. We would sometimes feel jealous of the simple life they live and feel depressed when we got back to Manila...now the ugly billboards and against the fast paced style of living.

There were a lot of things we learned from the simple farmers and fishermen of Bicol that we will remember until now. Being poor does not mean that you can't be happy. You have days were have a more fulfilling and happy life than the rich when they live it in a noble manner and make the best out of what they have.

Some people may think that once you are born into poverty, you have no chance of getting out...But I think that the only real obstacle to rising from the dirt and the garbage is losing hope and not doing anything about it. Acceptance of one's situation does not mean giving up on my dream of improvement. It's just the first step to understanding the situation and being able to figure out what one can do next.

I suppose the older generations have more reasons, or rather excuses, for giving up hope, but for the youth, there is no excuse. "Youth is a time of hope because it looks to the future with a whole range of expectations... the time when decisive choices concerning the rest of our lives come to fruition," Pope Benedict XVI said in his message to the youth in 2006. "It is a time of dreams, of ideals, of generous opportunities waiting if we dare to choose and to hope. The challenge is to dream big, to take a chance, to work hard and then to see it unfold before your eyes in a couple of days, months or years. We cannot give up the fight while we are young since there is so much to be experienced in life if we just work hard and dream big.

One thing I always tell myself is not to give up despite all the challenges I face and all the things that are causing insecurities. It doesn't take much to feel overwhelmed by school work, by our relationship with other people and other things. My faith in God and my hopeful attitude are what keep me sane. Believing that things will get better and that there will always be opportunities for growth and helping me get to me through the day and prepares me to tackle problems and hurdle obstacles. Sometimes doubts and hesitations enter my mind and push me to give up, but I persevere and finish what I have started or continue doing what I must do. We should never give up on our endeavors, on our family or friends, or ourselves.

Making the right decisions covers all aspects of our lives from the simple choices like what clothes to wear or what food to eat, what book to read or movie to watch, to the more complex ones like how to tell a friend that she's doing something wrong, what course to take, what job to apply for and so on. Decisions are hard to make sometimes and really once is important, no matter how big or small, it is the little things that often build up the big ones.

During our senior year in high school, three friends and I got hooked on fashion. We dreamed of entering that world. We chose courses that weren't directly related to fashion but could help if we went into it. One of us took up marketing, another chose accountancy, another, graphic design or architecture (the fourth went into pre-med). Although I really wanted to take fashion design, I didn't think it would be practical and so I chose another course that still had to do with design.

I guess you can say that things happen for a reason. My friends are already living the dream we had, and here I am still far from it but I haven't given up the dream. Maybe I will chose it again someday, for now, I have bigger dreams to chase.

If we didn't dare to dream, we wouldn't get anywhere and our lives would have no direction.

While we should always follow your hearts, I was struck by what one character said, "You can choose to listen to your parents or classmates or love or bad luck or bad choices," he said. "Or you can fight back. Things aren't always going to be fair in the real world. That's just the way it is. But for the most part ... you get what you give. The rest of your life is being shaped right now. With the decisions you choose... The choices you make ... Even the ones you don't make. You have some life in a long time. And the rest of your life starts right now."

That just about says everything.

Ms. Elena Christina C. Montemayor, 22, is a 2nd-year architecture student at the University of the Philippines Diliman.

Lessons from alternative classrooms

BAY AREA, San Francisco—Last year, in recognition of the Filipino-American community as the second largest Asian American ethnic group in America, the US Congress designated October as Filipino American History Month. Long before that, the two states with the largest Filipino-American populations—California and Hawaii—were already holding their own celebrations.

The choice of October is based on history. Four hundred twenty-three years ago, on Oct. 18, 1587, the first Filipinos ("Luzones Indios") arrived in Morro Bay in San Luis Obispo, southern California. (Today it is a waterfront city.) They were brought there by Spanish explorer Pedro Fernández de Quirós on Nuestra Señora de Esperanza.

The sailors abandoned the Spanish galleon because of mistreatment. In 1763, the first permanent Filipino American settlement in the United States was established in St. Malo, Louisiana where they built fishing villages. (Source: Smithsonian Institution's museum in "Unggoy" (The Tiny That Bind) at the San Francisco Public Library. It documents 200 years of the Filipino American experience through photographs and historical records. Some of the exhibits are interactive, like the personal and personal reflections. Showing the waves of migration from the first Filipino pensionados to the needed laborers for developing America to the current economic diaspora becomes an emotional experience as one empathizes with the thousands of these early immigrants, including their discriminatory signs on building façades that read, "Absolutely No Filipinos Allowed."

In another section of the library is an exhibit of political cartoons of African-Americans and Filipinos during the Philippine-American War. The title of the exhibit will give you an idea of the racist content of the material, "Black and Brown Dangers."

The neighboring Asian Art Museum launched the month-on-a-free admission Sunday with visitor lectures and art offerings featuring Cambodia based Filipino-American and cross-cultural artist Sopheap Pich. Pich's Nuestra Mil-Y-Una Del Cera: Africa and Yo Tengo B...hard-hats, 62, visual artist and professor of the fine arts program at Silliman de Manila University.

The significance of October as a time to focus on Philippine heritage is also the reason why the first Filipino Film Festival in the Bay Area will be held at the San Francisco Public Library to coincide with Fiesta Filipina 2010. Festival MC/Filipino Cora Alvina and Ms. Rene B...hard-hats, 62, visual artist and professor of the fine arts program at Silliman de Manila University.

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The festival committee formally launched its regular series of talks by Filipino authors as a prelude to the event, with the well-attended talk-and-book signing at the SF Public Library of Marites Danguilan Vitug's "Shadow of Doubt." A second dinner was last night, an assessment of Nick's first 100 days.

This is also the month when Filipino American stewards at large American corporations celebrate Philippine culture. I had been invited on three occasions by Chevron's Filipino Employee Network headed by Ilsa Hansen and Mabini Catedral to speak on my Philippine pop culture books. Bruno Bonilla who heads Hewlett-Packard's Filipino Employee Group, HP chapter in Pacific Rim and Mexico also arranged a similar forum. It is always heartwarming to see how eager these Filipino-Americans are for Philippine history and culture...after me getting over the initial shock of how distant they have grown from their native land.

So, when would we be without museums and libraries (the breathtaking state of our public libraries deserves another discussion) learning our knowledge of history and culture? Manila and several plazas...Elisa and La Salle Dasmari...but come to mind—heart of alternative classrooms which will enhance and enrich any our students and Filipinos, allowing the children to push into their creative lives and to train their own dreams to write and draw and someday be published.

It was a brilliant marketing plan for the Ayala Museum to feature during the summer, low nights at the museum, targeting students and teacher audiences.

The National Museum remains an architectural jewel. Its outside speak of a proud period in our history and the curators deserves a time to revamp its exhibits. I hope they will soon review the Salvador Lin Higgins fashion exhibit was atypical. The place was so deserted than the driver asked me with much puzzlement, "Gusto ba nila?"

Museums as learning centers need to be explored, exploited. All is not lost, for as long as people like John Hay, author of "Saving the Arts," a workbook for public school teachers, does not tire of remaking that arts education does make for better learners.

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz (nenicruz@gmail.com) is a member of the Philippine Board of Books for Young People, the Foundation for Worldwide People Network, and co-founder of the Ani Ati Ako Foundation. Email BlissfulJoy@yahoo.com for more info on the event.

The business of entertainment

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES and economists take things too seriously. I am glad that business and fun are mix in one of the sectors in which the Philippines can be globally competitive in the next 20 years. Our country is one of the emerging markets that can lead in entertainment, the demand for which literally explodes as the middle class expands. It is a market that can close many more international singing stars like Charice Pempengco.

I have watched the singing career of Charice for the past two years, since the appearance in the show of Oprah in 2008. Why has she literally conquered the world? I think that Charice is also an plausible wildfly in the most desperate cadavers, from the Japanese, to the South Koreans, to the Singaporeans, to the Thais, besides the whole of South America. Given more time, I can save even the European will be swept off their feet by her singing. Her voice quality and volume have a lot to do with her spectacular success. But my own theory is that her secret is the way she sings, which comes from the heart. She feels every word that she belts out. The "heart" quality is something you don't find in most other singers, except probably among the Afro-Americans.

Let's take another recent example of instant singing success. It may still be early in his career but I am willing to bet that Jovit Baldivino, the contestant in the show "Pilipinas Got Talent," will go a long way both in the national and international entertainment scene. Jovit has a powerful and clear soprano voice he emulates actual friends of journey. Again, anyone who saw his appearance in the talent show where Eric Santos skillfully questioned him about his private life would know what I mean by "heart." Not only does he sing with feelings that characterize the great singers of our life Charice and Lea Salonga. Jovit responses to the probing questions of Eric, he showed how big his heart is which he talked about his father who was sick of TB, his trying to eke out a living for the family by selling water after school, his willingness to accept defeat in the show as long as he had the chance to appear on stage, and his refusal to deliver. As an amateur psychologist, I do him that heart and humility go hand in hand. Just consider how untalented Charice still is by her unbelievable success worldwide.

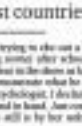
This "heart" quality of Filipinos is also evidence in OFWs to the people of their host countries. How many times I heard the phrase "hospitality and loving care" whenever I would ask foreigners in the more than 30 countries I have visited all over the world why they appreciate their Filipino employees! British partners in London prefer Filipino instead because of "tender and loving care." Their choices in foundations are courted to get Filipinos as caregivers because of "tender and loving care." The hotel restaurants in Barcelona (where I lived for two years) prefer Filipino waiters because of their "cheerful disposition and spirit of service" (in addition to their personal hygiene). Cruise ships all over the world have frequently made Filipino service workers (as well as unlicensed) because of their "pleasant demeanor and big heart." Even the primarily non-smiling Singaporeans and Hong Kong Chinese reluctantly admit that their Filipino household helpers contribute some cheer to their families because of their ever-smiling faces.

Charice is "mainline-Caucasian" to the mainstream by popular TV musical "Glee." That has been hyperbolic-fantasized and once again what Lea Salonga and the Filipino community in Broadway have started in the musical "Miss Saigon" all over the world accomplished: to be international superstars. Entertainment is without doubt one of the "creative" industries in which the Philippines has a competitive advantage. Just ask Christian Bautista about how he has established himself in the vast consumer market of Southeast and Northeast Asia, including China to that free market would yield more than 600 million middle income consumers whose expenditures on entertainment would amount to tens of billions of US dollars.

So, when you hear me saying that I am not impressed with the thousands of Charices and Jovits that we can still discover through our talent shows. Let us not be behind Rep. Freddie Tinga who has sponsored a bill to give a big push to the entertainment industry of the Philippines.

• • •

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas is senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific. He can be reached at e-mail bvillegas@uap.edu.ph.



Business Matters

Dr. Bernardo M. Villegas

This 'heart' quality of Filipinos is what endears OFWs to the people of their host countries

'Jueteng': national security issue

I CANNOT understand why President Aquino has time and appointment for the resolution of betting is not one of the top priorities of his administration.

If we look back to the last elections, jueteng played a crucial role in electing corrupt leaders, especially in the local level where moneybagging and fraud were rampant. Part of Aquino's constituency also are victims of greed governance in our country. Among Ed Panlilio and Grace Poe-Llamanzares, two in their respective re-election bids due to the ambition of power and by their opportunism in the last May polls, it was no surprise that their opponents (Glo Pineda and Fernando Ho) were actually tagged by Mayor's and having valuable friendship Oscar Cruz as among the top jueteng lords in our country. It's not rare that many other officials and tribal leaders like Panlilio and Belmonte in the last elections became of jueteng money.

President Aquino may have also forgotten that 'it wasn't too long ago' that jueteng payola allegations eventually led to former President Joseph Estrada's fall from power in 2001, making, if left unchecked, will become a serious national security issue that may eventually destroy the economic of Philippine portion in the coming years, much like how unexploited has gained control of Mexico and Colombia.

Some pundits have said that the reason Aquino has refused to categorically declare a full-scale war against jueteng is that he is afraid his top men involved in eliminating that decades-old national ill. But the ruler of our nation and his promise to bring to reward the "thieves" in office." I'm hoping that these pundits are wrong.

—RAMEY S. ADIN,
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Area Natio'Movement
for Good Governance
and Ethics's Leadership,
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LETTERS

On decongesting traffic-heavy roads

AMONG THE various United Nations Millennium Development Program (UNDP) schemes, perhaps the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority should consider a suggestion made by the late Inquirer PRO Roger in the 1990s, when the latter was suddenly changed the urban scene in the United States.

That scheme essentially would limit the city entries to vehicles that never fully paid for.

The spending habits of Americans for installment-buying/credit cards, etc., would have made the urban scene vastly effective. But the US authorities did not take Phil Rogers seriously.

—ALFREDO S. ANUNCION,
arisanchez@hotmail.com

Victims of President Aquino's injustice

THE DECISION of President Aquino to drop Hacienda Luisita owned by Mr. Pano and others from criminal and administrative charges over the botched Subtaga Forest operations on Aug. 23 smacks of partisanship politics. P-Noy has put friendship and political alliance above glorious things, including justice. On the night Cabinet ministers who were killed in the incident and the integrity of the incident investigation and Review Committee (RIC), which upon grueling weeks to uncover the truth, scrutinized the "heinous" incident." I'm hoping that these pundits are wrong.

No wonder it took P-Noy several days to visit over the BBC region. He waited until his two-man commission composed of Executive Secretary Paquito Ochoa and Chief Presidential Legal Counsel Eduardo de Mesa had reviewed the report (weren't to pursue his impeachment-dismantle decision.

P-Noy almost created another tangle of crises the "Luisita" issue, which is life-in-our-nation's delicate handling from the government. Did about the doctrine of the P-Noy administration? It turned out that the other policemen were more than the brother of Rolando Mendoza, the other policemen that tried to arrive at the height of the hostage crisis. SPO2 Gregorio Mendoza has gone on record to accuse Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim of trying to have Rolando "silenced." Now, Lim is considered scalp on the wall from P-Noy but Mendoza will be charged with "serious dereliction, conspiracy to commit crime, illegal possession of commercial and serious illegal detention."

Those that P-Noy ordered charged were mostly policemen whom he wanted with these charges. He encourages him to be non-... when you indulge the perks and privileges of the office, the duties and responsibilities are equally accepted by you. You are responsible for your failures."

—ROBERT BELLEZO,
chair, Partido Lakas ng Masa,
Dr.Calderon St., Project 4, QC

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Published letter wasn't withdrawn by sender

EDITOR: EARLY after I sent a letter dated Sept. 28, 2010 to the Inquirer, the newspaper published an almost letter requesting about our earlier request for an appointment with President Aquino. It obviously missed out the first paragraph of the original letter sent to the Inquirer was totally changed, thus affecting the whole content, by a matter of fact, the title the Inquirer gave the letter, "Still alone on an organization," is erroneous based on the issues/developments between our organization and President Aquino.

To note, the first paragraph of the original letter (dated Sept. 28 issue):

"October 8 is just around the corner when the first one hundred days of P-Noy will soon be over. For the families of the disappeared in the Philippines and the rest of the world, the president whom they supported during the campaign has yet to signal the start of the talks to the Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) and the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances which are reportedly requesting for an appointment with him during his first one hundred days in office."

I immediately called the Appointments Office of the Office of the President to explain my side and promised that I would ask the Inquirer to make the necessary correction. Never did we know that the Inquirer would still publish an old letter and change its content without informing us. Hence, the article, Many things accomplished in 15 days: In sum, makes published the same letter as it was originally written in its Readers' forum on Oct. 1, 2010.

On Oct. 6, 2010, two days before the initial six-month 100 days, President Aquino received an eight-member delegation of the Asian Federation Against Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD) and the families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearances (FIND) in Malacañang. He generously gave us 10 minutes of his precious time, which is amazing for the head of state. We mentioned our concerns, which is evidently focused to and in fact, he promised that the government would really cast concerns regarding the anti-enforced disappearance bill and the institutional treaty against enforced disappearances. He mentioned that most probably in 2011, an anti-enforced disappearance law will finally see the light of day.

Hence, grateful of his time which President Aquino generously gave us and his social promise to look into the plight of the disappeared, we look forward to the more-concrete responses of his new administration on the plight of the disappeared and their families.

May we please request the Inquirer to publish this letter immediately May we also request the Inquirer to please make the necessary clarification on the issues.

—MARY ARLEEN D. BACALSO,
secretary general,
Asian Federation Against
Involuntary Disappearances (AFAD),
Room: 310-311,
Philippine Social Science Center Bldg.,
Commonwealth Avenue,
Diliman, Quezon City

1. As a matter of policy and practice, letters approved for publication are edited to suit them to the Inquirer's editorial standards and style. But the Inquirer makes sure that the principal messages of the letters are kept essentially the same.

2. For a very obvious reason and because the letter could only be accommodated on Oct. 11, we had to change the previous reference of Mr. Bacalso's Sept. 28 letter from "before" to "after" Oct. 8.

3. Mr. Bacalso's Sept. 28 letter was published on the assumption that as of Oct. 11, when the letter's publication was to appear, the next day, no meeting had yet taken place between President Aquino and the disappeared's kin and their supporters. Please note that Mr. Bacalso did not recall her Sept. 28 letter or tell the Inquirer that, on Oct. 6, 2010, the President had met with AFAD and FIND. Neither was there any news report about such meeting that the Inquirer was aware of.

4. May we remind Bacalso readers that Jan. 9 to 11 + 1 equals those who would not be Luisita section to air complaints or immediately update the nation on any major interviewing developments regarding their gripes.—Ed.

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jim Randayoyi
Executive Chief Editor/Pres. L. Benedicto

'DIA DEL GALEON'

Cebuanos see history come alive

By Mary G. Alcoy
Cebu City

A 102-YEAR-OLD woman sat contentedly in her wheelchair and gazed wistfully at a 49-m-tall, 55-meter-long boat made entirely of polished wood, which docked on the serene waters of the Cebu port against a backdrop of rain-washed sky with hints of twilight on the horizon.

Accompanied by a nurse, the Chinese-Spanish mestiza, who asked not to be named to ensure her privacy, was one the oldest among thousands of Cebuanos who visited the Galeon Andaluza, a real-size replica of a 17th century Spanish galleon that rescued the mestizos Pardo Ocsza from Manila to Acapulco, carrying treasures from the Orient for trading.

"Everyone wanted to have a look at history to see running out of the pages of history a replica of a typical galleon that plied the Manila-Acapulco route," said Dr. Jocelyn Garra, executive director of the Cultural and Heritage Trust of the Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (TRAF) that hosted the ships visit to Cebu.

Toy model

The galleon seemed like a big wooden toy model which would make one doubt at first that it had come from Spain and crossed the Mediterranean Sea, Suez Canal, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal to get to the Philippines.

At first, however, did not diminish the beauty of Galeon Andaluza, which is made of teak, oak and pine wood, fiberglass, polyester resin, cast iron and wrought iron put together by galvanized iron nails. Its three wooden masts, each standing over 18 feet, support seven different sails.

Its exquisite design boasts of great detail from the armaments, globes and maps in the rope ladders that lead up the crow's nest at the top of each mast and the cannons which could be glimpsed from the sounds through the portholes.

Andaluza boasts six decks. Visitors could go up the steel gangplank and onto the main deck where ropes are neatly coiled or tied to one of the masts; up the main deck which in the past was off limits, except for the captain, or go to the bridge and try their hand at nudging the steering wheel, or the deck below where the canons are and the cargo hold further down.

Old and new

The bottom deck, which is off limits to visitors, contains 170 tons of concrete and iron that serve as the galleon's ballasts and stabilizers.

However, as much as Andaluza duplicates a 17th-century Spanish galleon, it is equipped with modern technology. It boasts a state-of-the-art navigational system and sonar in the past when its crew slept on the floor that was not taken up by cargo, Andaluza has air-conditioned dormitories with bunk beds, drawers and toilets and chambers for its captain and other officers.

And while it seems to rely on its sails to propel itself to its destination, it actually uses two engines of 250 horsepower when docking and departing or to get to a port on time.

Gideon Andaluza, helmed by Gonzalo de la Cruz, arrived and docked at the Cebu port behind the Mactan-Bay as Sugbu on Oct. 13 in a culmination of the Lt. Dio del Galeon festival celebrated every Oct. 8 to commemorate the galleon trade between the Philippines and Mexico (1565 and 1815), one of the most important trade routes in world history because it connected Asia with Europe, the Americas and Africa.

ARCHAEOLOGY buffs can view the table found in the admiral's room which serves as a reception room for special guests and dignitaries.

VISITORS mingle with Galeon Andaluza's all-Spanish crew as they tour the top deck, main deck and the cargo hold.

Ulises Carmelo Urzaiz, one of the 30-man crew, said the ship was built by Fundacion Nao Victoria, a foundation based in Spain that bears the name of a ship that has the distinction of being the first to have circumnavigated the world.

Victoria was one of the five ships in the Spanish expedition commanded by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan. It was the first ship to have circumnavigated the world and was the only ship that survived and returned to Spain after Magellan was killed in Mactan, Cebu.

One of the aims of the foundation is to recover, recreate and exploit historical ships and to manage projects for its preservation and permanent exposition to the public.

Andaluza was the second ship that the foundation built. The first was a real-size replica of the ship that Magellan used to go around the world and which they called the "Nao Victoria," said Urzaiz. ("Nao" is a Spanish term for a merchant ship.)

Adventure

The foundation had hired professional sailors and machinery engineers in Isla Andaluza's own home, like Urzaiz, a professional diver, are volunteers. Andaluza needs a professional diver to inspect its hull because it has to go in it attempts to follow the galleon trade routes.

The galleon visit was not only a great experience for Colombian but for Andaluza's crew as well.

"I volunteered because I thought it would be a great experience to sail around the world in a ship like this. I mean I've been on many kinds of ship as a diver, as a diving instructor, but nothing like this and to be able to come all the way here and go back to Spain, it's gonna take us more than a year and to an experience, I mean I had the offer I couldn't say no. Not me, an adventure like this is something like an opportunity that I could never, never be able to say in a lone like this again," Urzaiz said.

Andaluza, named after a region in the south of Spain, was finished in February and a month later sailed from the port of Spain and reached Shanghai in China after three months.

It stayed in Shanghai for three months as part of the Spanish pavilion in the world exposition. It sailed for Taiwan and Hong Kong before going to Manila and later to Cebu.

The crew members, three of whom are women, were warmly welcomed in Cebu with a performance of the multi-awarded Tribu Banakonon dance troupe.

Days of Humabon

Cebuanos are no strangers to the huge influence of Spain in its history, dating back to when Rajah Humabon and Rajah Juana converted to Christianity at the urging of Magellan. The explorer gave Juana the image of the Sto. Niño, who has become Cebu's revered patron.

When Andaluza was opened to the public a day after it arrived, hundreds, young and old and from walks of life, trooped to Pier 1 for a chance to go on board and experience history up close. Six days after it arrived, Cebu said 12,800 people have visited Andaluza.

It was not only the Cebuanos who wanted to see history come alive.

"They (Spaniards) themselves, their historians say that they really wanted to visit the place where Magellan was killed, where his expedition docked, so visiting Cebu is also very historic for them," Garra said.

The galleon was opened to visitors from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. then 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The schedule allows the crew to still enjoy their rumors of having their lunch at 2 p.m., siesta and dinner at 9 p.m.

Visitors were made to go up in batches of 125. A quick tour of the galleon would only take about 10 to 15 minutes. Those who wanted to linger and take photos were allowed but because of the long line of visitors awaiting their turn, most visitors would just hurry down the gangplank after doing the rounds on board and stayed on the dock to mill in awe at the galleon.

Cebuano response

Garra said she was surprised by the Cebuanos' response to the galleon and said that even the crew were amazed with the number of visitors who made the six-deck galleon crowded every time it opens to the public.

From Cebu, Galeon Andaluza heads back to Spain.

"It would probably take us five months and a half to get to Spain as the galleon plans to make more stops on the way back," Urzaiz said.

Undoubtedly, Galeon Andaluza's visit after 189 years when a Spanish galleon first docked in the shores of Cebu, is history not only for Cebu but for the whole country.

30,000 smiles join MassKara midnight countdown

By Carlo P. Gomez
Bacolod City

FOR FOUR DAYS, thousands of revelers from around the Philippines and the world joined the frenzied fun of the MassKara Festival's giant street parties in Bacolod City, capped by a 72-second midnight countdown to the city's 72nd Charter Day on Monday.

Festival director Eli Valmidiano announced that people who danced in the streets of Bacolod at the Bacolod Government Center and the public plaza at 30,000 At 11:58:46 p.m., they started the countdown and ended with the singing of "Happy Birthday" led by Mayor Evelio Leonardia as a spectacular display of fireworks lit the sky.

MassKara is coined from the words "Mass," which means "many" or "multitude," and "Kara," a Spanish word for "face."

Thus, MassKara means "a mass or multitude of smiling faces."

The festival was born 31 years ago amid the gloom brought by the sugar crisis and the sinking of the MV Don Juan that claimed the lives of 750 Negrenses. It was a declaration of hope and a celebration of the resilient spirit of Bacolodnon, Leonardia said.

'Kari sa Bacolod'

The mayor said this year's event was the only one of its kind that venue chosen to the New Year's Eve countdown at Times Square in New York. It adopted the theme, "Kari Sa Bacolod (Come to Bacolod)," as invitation to the world to celebrate life with the city through music, dance and fun.

"It's another fantastic year for MassKara, every year it seems to be growing in terms of numbers," said Daniel Lacson Jr., former Negros Occidental governor and now chair of the Negros Island Tourism Commission.

"I think MassKara has come of age and many more people will come to Bacolod for it," he added.

The last hurrah in the evenings of Oct. 23 and 24 with the Electric MassKara staged at the Administrative Building Festival Strip on Lacson Street. Seventeen showcased the best of local food fare.

On Oct. 15, nine lighted ships carried dancers, musicians and other performers—from cutout jockeys, fairies to strange alien creatures—weaving lighted masks. The next night of merrymaking, the winning floats entertained the crowd.

Electric MassKara

"We are finally defining the Electric MassKara as a festival of lights, music, performances and light shows," Tajanlangit said.

Flowers schools participated in the Masskara street dance and arena competition on Oct. 16, and 28 barangays on Oct. 17. Declared champions among the schools were the dancers of Alijis National High School and Sum-ag Elementary School.

Despite the rain, tourists and city residents packed the streets and the plaza to watch the street dancing competitions among 20 barangays. Masbadagan won a trophy and P500,000 in cash, plus P15,000 more for being host to contestants. It will be competing in the Electric MassKara Festival on Oct. 30.

FESTIVE MASKS at the MassKara Festival in Bacolod City during the weekend.

Also awarded were the best in costume design, best in mask and best in concept awards.

Stasha Alexi Agnes Thorsen Watts-Chang, 22, was crowned MassKara Queen 2010 at a pageant held on Oct. 20.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

64,000 banana workers in Mindanao face job loss with Iran ban on US imports

MAGPET, North Cotabato—John to Mindanao's fruit industry are starting to be shed as a result of Iran's ban on the importation of goods from the United States and its allies, including the Philippines.

The first company to close shop as a result of the Iran-United States row was Tumbler Banana Corp., a Japanese firm with plants in two North Cotabato towns.

Senative officials said Iran's ban on importation from countries allied with the United States would surely hurt the fruit's business.

Iran stopped importing goods from the United States and its allies in retaliation for Washington pressure aimed at derailing Iran's nuclear program. The United States suspects Iran of secretly trying to produce nuclear weapons.

The importation ban, the Philippine Banana Growers and Exporters Association (PHILBA) said, would cost 64,000 people their jobs in the banana industry alone.

Ricky Tagitocha, head of Tumbler's people management department, said in letters sent to the mayors of Antipas and Magpet that it was folding operations in the two towns.

"After a careful and exhaustive review, the company has decided to shut down our operations in these towns to maintain the viability of remaining plantations in the province," Tagitocha said in the letters he sent on Oct. 10.

He said the Iran ban further jacked up the firm's high cost of production that Tumbler was suffering as a result of inefficiency, chronic pests and plant diseases and bad roads.

Tagitocha said Tumbler would terminate at least 130 employees.

He said, however, that Tumbler will continue to operate its other plantations in North Cotabato, particularly those in the towns of Arakan, Midsilda and Tulunan.

Magpet Mayor Elver Hilad said the Tumbler pullout could also be the result of New People's Army harassment on the firm.

On Tuesday, at least 50 rebels stormed the Tumbler banana plantation in Magpet and burned a frozen truck.

The banana growers' group PHILBA, however, said the Iran ban on importation was its biggest concern.

Stephen Antig, PHILBA president, said the industry was expected to lose at least P7.5 billion in revenues as a result of the Iran ban.

Iron, Antig said, is the Philippines' biggest banana market in the Middle East and consumes half of at least 30 million boxes of bananas that the Philippines sends to the region each year.

"We are at a loss. This came as suddenly and we were not prepared," Antig had said.

Antig said PHILBA met with trade officials to discuss what possible steps to take.

"They are already aware of the situation. They pledged to look for ways to solve the problem," he said.

Antig said the domino effect of the job losses would be tremendous.

"At estimate, 64,000 workers, with an average of six dependents per family, the total number of people that would be affected would reach 384,000," he said.

Antig said the situation would be disastrous especially since "Christmas is approaching." Jody Quiroz, Inquirer Mindanao

VILLAGE POLLS ON MONDAY

Preparations 'nearly complete'

By Jocelyn R. Uy

DESPITE a potential back-to-back storm threatening to hit the country, the Commission on Elections (Comelec) yesterday said preparations for the nationwide barangay balloting on Monday continued and were "nearly complete."

Comelec spokesperson James Jimenez announced in a press briefing that at least 80 percent of the groundwork for the Oct. 15 elections has already been finished despite the postponement of polling in some areas, particularly in north Luzon ravaged by Supertyphoon "Pedring."

Most of these areas, where deliveries of election paraphernalia and other vital facilities for the balloting are almost completed, are in Metro Manila and its neighboring provinces, in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Completion of the delivery means that the election supplies have reached the offices of the city or municipal treasurers, Jimenez pointed out in reporters.

He added that 20 percent of the deliveries of election paraphernalia were put on standby since some major roads in several areas in northern Luzon remained closed due to fallen trees, landslides and floods brought about by the ongoing typhoon.

Potential storm

The strongest typhoon to hit the country so far this year, Jose pummeled northern Luzon last weekend, leaving at least 56 people dead and P1.3 billion worth of crop damaged.

The weather bureau yesterday announced that a potential storm, to be named "Kaeding," was monitored forming over the Pacific Ocean and expected to only brush lightly over northernmost.

Jimenez yesterday said that the Comelec was still closely monitoring the situation in the typhoon-ravaged areas in northern Luzon before it could announce which other towns the barangay elections were to be suspended.

On Wednesday, it announced that elections were deferred in the towns of Dingalan, Palanan and Dinapigue in Isabela, hardest hit by the typhoon.

Jimenez yesterday said that the Comelec might also postpone the exercise in the town of Tinoc in Ifugao, Bontoc and Sadanga in Bontoc and Sadanga in Mountain Province.

"We are considering putting them in the list of places where the elections will be suspended but we will make the decision to suspend as soon as we are sure that the elections there are no longer possible," said the Comelec spokesperson.

He added that the Comelec could make the decision on the day of the elections itself.

TARLAC FLOOD
A woman carrying her belongings crosses flooded rice fields caused by Supertyphoon "Juan" in La Paz, Tarlac.

346 villages watched in W. Visayas, Calabarzon

By Nestor Burgos Jr. and Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas
and Mindanao Desk
Inquirer Southern Luzon

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) has placed 346 barangays in Western Visayas under its election watch list for the Oct. 15 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections.

Comelec Western Visayas director Lucyno Dennis Asuncion said yesterday that the barangays were identified based on an assessment conducted by the Regional Joint Security Coordinating Council (RJSCC). The RJSCC is composed of the Comelec, the Philippine National Police and the Philippine Army.

Asuncion said those comprise only 7.77 percent of the region's 4,456 barangays.

Of the 346 barangays, 89 were under Category 1, while 226 were under Category 2.

Those placed under Category 1 have a history of intense political rivalry, while those under Category 2 have an active presence of communist rebels.

Negros Occidental, including Bacolod City, had the most number of barangays under the watch list at 128, with 27 under Category 1 and 101 under Category 2.

It was followed by Iloilo including Iloilo City with 84 barangays; Capiz with 77; Aklan with 37; and Antique with 9.

"There are 661 barangay captain seats up for grabs in Negros Occidental.

Southern Tagalog

In the Calabarzon, the PNP and Comelec have placed 31 villages under the election watch list areas (EWA).

The villages were identified based on histories of long-time political bickering, reported threats against the candidates and election-related violence recorded in the 2007 and 2010 national elections.

"These are areas that will be given special attention to [let] there are lively contested positions in the barangay level," said police regional director Chief Supt. Samuel Pagkilinan Jr.

Batangas registered the most number of EWAs in the region, with 14 villages in Batan, Tayasan, San Nicolas and Talisay towns, and Batangas City. Cavite was included in category 2, where the presence of armed rebels was monitored.

"We have considered a greater presence of armed groups in all village candidates and started talking to them individually," said Batangas police director Senior Supt. Edwin Vibangco.

In 2007, Batangas was marred with the burning of an elementary school that was used as a polling center in Taysan, where two candidates were killed.

In Laguna, seven villages from Lumban and San Maria towns, and Biñan City were included in the list.

In Biñan, the police named Barangay San Juan in Calauc, Manggahan in Antipolo City, and Bagtas and Malaguin both in San Mateo.

There are villages in Quezon—42 likely in Buenavista, Mulanay in Candelaria and Gumaca in Sariaya—are being watched as potential election hotspots.

Quezon police director Senior Supt. Robinson Valmojino said they were also gunning against the reported activities of communist rebels in 145 villages in the Bondoc Peninsula, Bicol (Bicol-Isabela-General Nakar), Dolores and Tagkawayan in Quezon, which could affect the conduct of Monday's elections.

The Army identified 174 villages where insurgents operate.

In Cavite, Tejeros in Rosario, Sabang in Dasmariñas City and Habay 2 in Bacoor were placed on the list.

"Between now and Monday, there will be more and frequent police operations and checkpoints," Pagkilinan said.

The regional police office is deploying 6,756 heroes to man the Oct. 15 elections.

Lawyer sues village bets for campaign paraphernalia

DAVAO CITY—Fed up with the posting of campaign materials on his fence and trees near his house, a lawyer here sued several candidates for the youth and village polls.

Lawyer Marcelo Flores of Barangay 7-A in Matina has said the candidates and their supporters have been violating one's right to possess his property by these materials.

In a complaint filed before the Commission on Elections (Comelec) here Wednesday, Flores said the massive posting of campaign materials on his fence and trees near his residence was done without his consent.

He said he had repeatedly reprimanded those behind it but they did not listen.

Even candidates he personally saw posting political ads ignored his appeal to spare his property from being vandalized.

Among those that Flores named were Joel Sanico, candidate for village chair of Barangay 7-A, and village council candidates Jun Escabio, Mike Sumpaoan, Rose Bacilla, Cecile Colina-Sy, Greg Madal, Gigo Manawatao, Jojo Atupan, Wilson Carillo, Mark Ballyran, Tomas Bendijo and Soimo Villaita.

Also included in his complaint were SB chair hopeful Angelique Villasis and Mark Dagdoki; and youth council candidate King Orgilmo Ely.

Disturbance

Flores said he cited in these Comelec ruling on poster areas but they still did not listen.

He said some candidates even told him that they were not violating anything.

Flores said as if taunting him, some candidates had their campaign posters pasted more campaign materials on his fence, especially when no one was home.

The effort and time spent in removing the campaign materials are so enormous that it was already disturbing his peace, Flores said.

He said much as he wanted to keep watch over his property, it was impossible for him to do so without disrupting his normal functions.

Besides, Flores said, that it would be ridiculous to stand guard 24/7 just to prevent candidates from illegally posting their campaign materials on his property.

Flores asked the Comelec to take immediate action against the erring candidates.

City Election Officer Emilio Cullo agreed that the posting of campaign materials in private properties without the consent of the owner is a violation of election laws. Jody Quiroz, Inquirer Mindanao

Gov't officials fight over mystery marble blocks

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—the huge blocks of his raw marbles believed worth P30 million turned up abandoned on Wednesday near the roadside and waterways at Barangay Tibul in San Miguel town, and had been impounded by the provincial government.

The marble blocks, each measuring 7 cubic meters in height and width, had been obstructing traffic as well as the Tibul waterway as these were placed under the custody of the provincial engineering office on Thursday.

Now, Central Luzon officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) have been trying to take back the blocks from the provincial government, said Ramiro de Belen, chief of the Bulacan provincial environment office (Benro).

Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado has put up a huge ruckus at the provincial capitol that calls attention to the blocks. The opposite urges the marble blocks' owners to claim the valuable, unidentified, back, provided they bring along proof of ownership.

The governor says the owners have weeks from Oct. 21 to reclaim the blocks before the provincial treasury adds the expensive penalty on the owners' assets.

De Belen said the abandoned marble blocks could have come from the Bulacan-Nueva Ecija site in Doña Remedios Trinidad town, and could belong to rainy operations there.

Barangay Tibul is located at the base of Sierra Madre where marble is quarried. At the top lies the road used by trucks transporting marble blocks out of the area. The blocks are usually exported abroad.

It cannot be known immediately beyond the abandoned blocks.

De Belen said he and his men were initially prevented from claiming the blocks by armed security guards of a mining firm there.

More than 1.0 marble quarries over 25-year leases to extract marble in Rizal-San Mateo, so Benro needed proof first before it release the commodities, he said.

Ben Benro did not expect to be challenged also by the DENR-Central Luzon and Bataan and Bulacan provincial governments.

"DENR personnel from the Region 3 office were also there. They were preventing us from confiscating the marbles [arguing that] the provincial government does not have the right and authority to seize and keep [the marble blocks]," De Belen said.

On July 6, Alvarado ratified all the operations of close to 100 quarry firms to address the low revenue the government has been earning from the industry.

The suspension lasted until Aug. 6. Alvarado allowed small quarry, iron and marble operations to proceed. On Sept. 7, he allowed quarry firms to continue operating until the end of the year. Gemmela Reyes-Batungan, Inquirer Central Luzon

Albay gov: Effects of new SLEx fees like 'Juan'

By Mar Arguelles
and Roy M. Mabasa
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—It's as if a new supertyphoon has struck the Bicol region and other provinces in Southern Luzon.

This was how Albay Gov. Joey Salceda yesterday described the Supreme Court decision allowing South Luzon Expressway (SLEx) to increase tollway fees, a ruling that passed the way for them collect the expressway to increase they toll rates as well.

"The ruling will have a long term adverse economic impact on the 'small regions' (traders) that depend on the Divisoria trade or fish dealers that rely on Navotas as well as the ordinary motorist, including students studying in Metro Manila or families visiting their relatives working in Manila," Salceda said.

"I feel so helpless. Where will the ordinary provincial go for protection?" the governor said.

Fragile rural economies

Salceda noted that the Supreme Court had voted unanimously to lift the temporary restraining order it earlier issued against the toll rate hike, thereby allowing three other tollways—Fourth Luzon Expressway (NLEx), SLEx and Skyway—to impose increases in their toll rates.

Considering that the ruling will adversely impact "fragile countryside economies," Salceda said he would not give up the fight against high toll fees.

"We will work with other groups in filing a motion for reconsideration," he said.

Last June, Salceda asked the Supreme Court to stop SLEx's planned toll hike as there was no notice and hearing as required by law.

The petition said its petition simply argued that "with the ruling, there will be no legal hindrance to the toll operator to move to charge the high court's petitioner against an imminent abuse."

The petition also challenged the agreement between South Luxon Tollways Corp. (SLTC), SLEx operator and Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) that allowed the rate increase.

Salceda said that under Presidential Decree 1112, the author ity of TRB to control toll rates covers controls only to construction, operation and maintenance of toll facilities.

Through the supplemental toll operation agreement with TRB, SLTC was given authority to raise toll rates by 200 percent on June 30.

Palace appeal

With the increase, private passenger vehicles will be paying P2.75 per kilometer over the current 62 centavos per km.

Malacañang yesterday appealed for sobriety in the midst of the Supreme Court decision.

"We'll, that is the decision of the Supreme Court. We'll have to abide by that," Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said at a press briefing yesterday.

Lacierda said those opposing the toll hikes can file the necessary motions before the high court to get a reprieve.

As for those who fear that fares will increase as well one go and take up the issue with Land Transportation Fare Regulatory Board, he said.

"We would like to appeal to the public. Let's wait and see. Let's not be too agitated," Lacierda said.

He said people may overreact, adly see the benefit of the increased toll in the quality of the service in the expressways.

Beauty

He said there was initial resistance to the toll increase at SLEx but people eventually saw the huge improvements.

"Some people were saying there'd traffic, that there'd be congestion on Macleban High, way because NLEx won't be used," Lacierda said.

"But we saw the beauty of SLEx and are used it. There really were benefits in the long run," he said. *With a report from* Norman Bordadora

Higher SLEx toll rates may take effect next week

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He said being able to increase the toll at SLEx would mainly the company's financial losses which have reached nearly P1 billion in the past four months.

"We have been delayed with our payments to our creditors," Isreel said, adding that the company was close to default ing on its loans.

In a decision released late Thursday, the high court declared the individual complainants of the supplemental toll operation agreement (STOA) covering the Luzon Tollway Project between the government and SLEx, as well as the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) insubstantial as having been "overtaken by events."

The toll hikes were supposed to have been implemented last June 30, the last day of the previous Arroyo administration.

But the high court instead a restraining order two days before the new toll rates were supposed to be implemented.

Waiting to be given lighted

According to Isreel, the company still be able to adjust toll rates almost three to four days after getting the green light from the TRB, which was ordered by the court to conduct a final review of the appeals of users.

The TRB board is expected to meet by the middle of next week, so SLEx expects to get the approval by next Thursday.

The SLTC was only allowed to collect toll at the Alabang Exit, after it completed the first two phases of its rehabilitation of the road. The company said it spent P12 billion for these two phases, which cover the rehabilitation of the Alabang viaduct and the widening of the Nichols Interchange.

The SLTC holds the 30-year concession to operate SLEx, to expire in 2038. It is entitled to collect toll to ensure that it gets a 17 percent return on investment every year.

The supplemental which is backed by Malacañang's MTO Capital, earlier decided to push back the implementation of the new toll rates, which is 200 percent higher than the current rate, as a sign of respect for the then incoming Aquino administration, only for the high court to issue a restraining order against it.

David said the delays have cost SLTC at least P6 million in losses every day. The company's losses is foregone revenue to be collected at P600 million to P1 billion.

David and the company was still studying whether or not it would ask the government to compensate SLTC for the delay.

"Our board will have to decide on it but our business are expecting us to do that because we have to pay them," he said.

VAT untimely separate issue

The Supreme Court yesterday explained that the decision lifting the temporary restraining order on the toll increase and the case on the separate issue of the value-added tax (VAT) that the government must to implement as well.

"This decision has nothing to do with VAT. That is an entirely separate case," said Supreme Court spokesperson and concept administrative Midas Marquez.

The high court last August issued a temporary restraining order against a government plan to impose the 12 percent VAT on toll rates in superhighways that was to be implemented as of Aug. 16.

Former Nueva Ecija congressman Rustico Jose and lawyer Ma. Teofisa A. Ferrer, a former trade and industry official, filed the petition opposing the VAT plan, arguing that imposing the VAT on toll rates was "unconstitutional" and an "invasion of legislative powers."

Also toll hike in NLEx

Marquez also explained that in the high court decision promulgated late Thursday on the SLEx toll hike, the ordered date lifted the TRO on the toll rate hike in the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) and the South Metro Manila Skyway (SMMS).

The court also ruled that the various supplemental toll operation agreements (STOA) between the TRB and Manila Toll Expressway Corp. (MTEC)—and private corporations were "all valid and constitutional except for some provisions."

The decision lifting the TRO and declaring the questioned provisions in the STOA constitutional "gives all operators the green light to impose these new toll fees," Marquez said.

"That is those operators are reminded by the SMR for reverse, it doesn't necessarily mean that the toll operations are prevented from imposing these new rates. The rates can be implemented pending review of the TRB," he explained, adding that nothing also prevents the public from further questioning the rates before the TRB.

4 cases consolidated

The high court issued a unanimous decision on the four consolidated cases questioning the legality of the STOAs and the increase in toll rates in the expressways.

The consolidated cases were those filed by lawyers Ernesto Francisco and José Ma. Flores against the TRB, PNCC, et al.; former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, Atty. Enrique Ona, et al. against the TRB, Manila North Tollways Corp., PNCC and the Free Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.; Civil Liberties Union (Northern) et al. against the TRB and PNCC; and TRB against the Sterling Online Records and Entrepreneurs of San Pedro, Laguna.

'Ruling favors investors'

Francisco said he would "feel unjustly" like a motion for reconsideration of the decision.

He believes that since the decision was not on final, the SLEx toll rate increase should not yet be implemented.

"The SLTC has to explain and justify the increase in the SLEx projects and [raise P8.5 billion for 4 toll roads from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Lucena, Quezon, to P12 billion for 3 toll roads from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Sta. Tomas, Batangas, or about P26.26 billion for 4 toll roads from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Lucena, Quezon," Francisco said.

"Still to me, the Supreme Court decision will boost to to the coming years as those tollway companies—which are owned by foreigners (Indonesians and Malaysians)—will impose an 81 hike every 2 to 3 years in the next 25 years using a formula of the TRO which is designed to favor the investors," he said.

Supplemental petition

He also said he was "surprised" at the decision dismissing his petition questioning the minimum interest rate by the government with the expressway operators because he had just received an order from the high court directing him to file his comment on the SLTC's urgent motion to lift the temporary restraining order.

"Besides, there are arguments which have yet to file their comments on my supplemental petition as directed by the Supreme Court," he said.

PNP links MILF to Cotabato bus blast; three other angles eyed

From page A1

"I can confirm to you that there are terrorists affiliated with a bigger group," Sultan said.

He said police investigators were "in the process of getting additional information" from the witnesses.

Chief Supt. Iskharno Iid, chief of the Directorate for Integrated Police Operations, earlier told a radio station in Buenavid City that the bomb attack was in retaliation for the arrest of Abraham Ibp Alonto on Sept. 22.

Alonto is a member of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front's central committee. He was taken in while trying to enter the Davao International Airport in order a flight to Guinobatan, Albay, via Cebu.

But MILF spokesperson Von Al Haq scolded Ilio for making the claim, saying that it was irresponsible and would further damage the stalled peace process between the government and the separatists.

"We will file a protest on this matter," Al Haq said.

Bacolod Jailbird is directly connected to Ilio's statement.

3 angles

"We have considered three angles but we won't say[ ] which of these are the most likely incidents. We are looking at criminal, a simple act of terrorism, or even a retaliatory act [from some organized groups] because we have killed or arrested some of their members in the past," he told reporters.

Sultan said that in pursuing the retaliation angle, police investigators were trying to establish if one of the injured passengers—a former employee of another bus company sacked for purported extortion activities—was involved.

"There are angles like this, but again we have to evaluate every piece of information gathered. It's very difficult to speculate," he said.

"The investigators' best job is to determine the identity of these men who disembarked from the bus shortly before the bomb went off, Bacalso said.

"We still have to identify them, but it is now certain that there are at least three suspects," he told reporters, adding that some people arrives from the PNP headquarters in Manila would assist in the investigation.

Bacalso said an 81 mm mortar shell was used to make the improvised explosive device.

In previous bomb attacks in Central Mindanao claimed dozens of lives before the PNP.

BLAST VICTIM: Ivy Shyrose Felipa breasts down after confirming that her half-brother Mark Lester Fort, 18, is among the 15 people killed in the bomb explosion inside a passenger bus in Matalam town in North Cotabato on Thursday. (CHRISTIAN JAY MANGUILIMOTAN)

Mendiola, said the provincial government was extending full assistance to the victims and their families, including medical treatment of the wounded.

The names of the dead were initially released, there were being treated at hospitals in Davao City and six in hospitals in Kidapawan and Matalam. *Reports from Cecile Aguanno, Willhaarter A. Magbanua and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ex-con runs amok in elementary school, kills 3, including 12 year old

From page A1

gay officials said.

"He attacked kids, teachers," Iloilo Sup. Edwin de Guzman, acting city police chief, said, "resuming home what could have been a normal afternoon for teachers and children at the Jalaur Elementary School toward into a nightmare.

Robbery and rape

"When he left his house he just said he was going to buy bath soap," Talisayan barangay chair Josephine Pareja told the Inquirer. "But more, this."

"He told among those who knew him since that he was a quiet man. From the way we see it, he had a problem psychologically," Pareja said, speaking in Filipino.

Pareja said that Mateo was previously jailed for robbery and three also served time for rape. Later, he runs presidential clemency and his sentence was commuted, Pareja said.

Mateo left prison three years ago, Pareja said.

Classroom massacre

Among the dead were 11-year-old pupil Cute Orpiano, teacher Lorna Pulalon and Rubea Hava, 64, who had walked over to shield his 12-year-old granddaughter Christine from the assault.

Police and local officials said that Mateo, on entering the school campus, began stabbing people for men.

Then he went inside a classroom and chased away as schoolchildren and their teachers, according to accounts by the police and the officials.

Terrified, other students took refuge in a bathroom.

The elderly Flores tried to pacify Mateo, who was in town, but the three in front of the kids middles. Three was hit in the back while teacher Pulalon was stabbed several times.

Crisis for help

Residents who responded in the victims' cries for help picked up anything they could—stones and pieces of wood—and chased Mateo.

At inquest reporter saw bloodied pieces of rocks, some as big as a man's head.

School Buster pain were dismissed and their pieces into bore traces of blood.

An inquest reporter and witnesses suffered a rash wound.

Blood in the classroom

The classroom was in disarray with blood on the floor and blackboard, desks overturned and books scattered.

The body of Mateo lay nearby surrounded by bloodied rocks.

Local officials said Mateo had been working as a caretaker of fighting cocks.

Pareja said Mateo had been in jail for almost 20 years and was serving a sentence for robbery and rape at the San Ramon Penal Colony until about three years ago, when he was released.

Pareja and Flores, Orpiano and Pulalon were rushed to a hospital but they died while undergoing treatment.

Bleeding daughter

Bernard Orpiano, father of the young Cute, said he could not believe the fate that befell his daughter.

"She was so playful and even reminded me that I failed to give her favor (allowance). She went back informing to that there's no pension her reviews the news before the 2010.

"I'm still hoping that it's not true," Bernard said.

He said Cute had barely entered the school when she saw other children rushing out of the small gate manned by a security guard.

"I went in and I saw my girl bleeding. I rushed her to the hospital but it was too late," Bernard said, crying.

Cute, he said, was quite popular for being the school's singer.

"I can't blame a dead person but I still want to know why he committed such an act," he said.

Depêd shocked

Police investigators said they found out that Mateo managed to enter the guarded school when the security guard, who was not identified, went to the toilet.

The guard, who did not have any firearm, joined the rush to Mandurriao, to Lucena, Quezon, to P12 billion for 3 toll roads from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Sta. Tomas, Batangas, or about P26.26 billion for 4 toll roads from Alabang, Muntinlupa, to Lucena, Quezon," Francisco said.

"Still to me, the Supreme Court decision will boost to to the coming years as those tollway companies—which are owned by foreigners (Indonesians and Malaysians)—will impose an 81 hike every 2 to 3 years in the next 25 years using a formula of the TRO which is designed to favor the investors," he said.

Supplemental petition

He also said he was "surprised" at the decision dismissing his petition questioning the minimum interest rate by the government with the expressway operators because he had just received an order from the high court directing him to file his comment on the SLTC's urgent motion to lift the temporary restraining order.

"Besides, there are arguments which have yet to file their comments on my supplemental petition as directed by the Supreme Court," he said.

'Cowardly act'

"It was a cowardly act by hardened lawless elements targeting innocent and helpless civilians," the governor said.

She described the attack as thorough police investigation so that the culprits will be apprehended right away.

"Our hearts go out in the victims and their loved ones. We are praying for the speedy recovery of the survivors," she said.

Mendiola said the provincial government was extending full assistance to the victims and their families, including medical treatment of the wounded.

The names of the dead were initially released, there were being treated at hospitals in Davao City and six in hospitals in Kidapawan and Matalam. *Reports from Cecile Aguanno, Willhaarter A. Magbanua and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Ex-con runs amok in elementary school, kills 3, including 12 year old

From page A1

gay officials said.

"He attacked kids, teachers," Iloilo Sup. Edwin de Guzman, acting city police chief, said, "resuming home what could have been a normal afternoon for teachers and children at the Jalaur Elementary School toward into a nightmare.

Robbery and rape

"When he left his house he just said he was going to buy bath soap," Talisayan barangay chair Josephine Pareja told the Inquirer. "But more, this."

"He told among those who knew him since that he was a quiet man. From the way we see it, he had a problem psychologically," Pareja said, speaking in Filipino.

Pareja said that Mateo was previously jailed for robbery and three also served time for rape. Later, he runs presidential clemency and his sentence was commuted, Pareja said.

Mateo left prison three years ago, Pareja said.

Classroom massacre

Among the dead were 11-year-old pupil Cute Orpiano, teacher Lorna Pulalon and Rubea Hava, 64, who had walked over to shield his 12-year-old granddaughter Christine from the assault.

Police and local officials said that Mateo, on entering the school campus, began stabbing people for men.

Then he went inside a classroom and chased away as schoolchildren and their teachers, according to accounts by the police and the officials.

Terrified, other students took refuge in a bathroom.

The elderly Flores tried to pacify Mateo, who was in town, but the three in front of the kids middles. Three was hit in the back while teacher Pulalon was stabbed several times.

Crisis for help

Residents who responded in the victims' cries for help picked up anything they could—stones and pieces of wood—and chased Mateo.

At inquest reporter saw bloodied pieces of rocks, some as big as a man's head.

School Buster pain were dismissed and their pieces into bore traces of blood.

An inquest reporter and witnesses suffered a rash wound.

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See flyers for details and loading schedule. Promo runs until December 31, 2010. For DTI-NCR No. 0435, Series of 2010. ABC Ref. No.

LET'S PLAY

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

New LRT station now open

Roosevelt stop a step away to MRT connection

By Paolo G. Montecillo

AS MANY as 3,000 commuters will benefit from the newly opened Light Rail Transit (LRT) Line 1 Roosevelt Station—the second of three stations on the train system's "closing the loop" link with the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

At a brief ceremony on Friday, the LRT Authority (LRTA) and the Department of Transportation and Communications announced the opening of the new station, which is expected to serve passengers from Quezon City's Mabini area and Fernando Poe Jr. Avenue in Caloocan City.

The new station is one component in connecting LRT Line 1 from Baclaran in Metropolitan Manila to the MRT that runs along Edsa, said LRTA Administrator Rafael Rodriguez, describing a "seamless connection" between the two rail systems.

He added that buses plying to and from the two would cause passengers no longer need to transfer vehicles when traveling to either of the two lines" 10 minutes.

"Ten additional trains will be deployed to accommodate the additional 3,000 passengers, who use the LRT at different times outside the 17-hour operation of the entire transit facility," Rodriguez said.

A 1.8km extension of the LRT Line 1's southernmost Baclaran station costs P2B.

The project contractor, DM Civil Construction Inc., is scheduled to start construction on the last part of the closing the loop project—a common station for LRT Line 1, the MRT and the envisioned MRT 7 project before the year ends.

MRT 7 will run from the common station in North Avenue in Quezon City to San Jose del Monte in Bulacan.

The entire project is expected to cost 39 billion, up from the initial estimate of P7.4 billion.

FLOWER PRICES UP
A vendor fixes her blooms at the Dimasalang flower market in Manila. The price of flowers has soared as a result of Supertyphoon "Juan," that hit Northern Luzon, traditional source of flowers for the holidays, last weekend. MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

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Show goes on for Willie Revillame, for now

By Julie M. Aurelio

THERE'S no stopping the show-ing of Willie Revillame's new shows—for now.

A Quezon City court has right denied the petition for a temporary restraining order (TRO) filed by ABS-CBN network against the launching of Revillame's new shows on TV5.

However, Judge Luisito Cortez of Regional Trial Court Branch 84 also ordered the TV host to post a bond of P426,917,000.96, representing the principal consideration amount being sought by ABS-CBN. The bond must be posted not later than Oct. 27.

In an eight-page resolution, Cortez junked the ABS-CBN petition, saying a TRO is only issued if the matter is of extreme urgency and that grave injustice would arise.

"The court finds that the defendant ABS-CBN has failed to discharge the burden of proving that there exists an exigency need for the issuance of a TRO to prevent any great or irreparable injury that it might suffer before the preliminary injunction could be heard," it ruled.

The court denied the application for TRO for lack of merit, noting that ABS-CBN's justification was based on its apprehension that other talents "should not be emboldened to violate their contractual obligations under their agreement."

The resolution was released Friday evening following a closed door chamber hearing on Friday morning, during which ABS-CBN moved for the immediate resolution of the TRO petition.

The P400-million bond, the court said, will be imposed on Revillame to "secure those activities of plaintiff Revillame of surprise airing and attracting unprecedented public opinion."

Cortez noted that in a chamber hearing on Oct. 8, Revillame and his counsels claimed they had no knowledge of the airing of his TV5 shows but the court later learned of a related site Oct. 21.

"As correctly observed by the defendant's counsel, this serves also as testimonial to utter disregard and sheer defiance of the plaintiff to the processes of the court and should not be left unpunished, and strongly moved for the resolution of TRO this afternoon," the resolution noted.

The court said the bond "will assure for any damage ABS-CBN may have suffered, pending determination of the main action and airing of the new program on TV5."

Likewise, both Revillame and ABS-CBN, as well as lawyers, staff, agents and media officers were told to observe the rule on sub judice.

"The plaintiff and defendants are ordered to refrain from making any comments, other than the pleadings filed and records of the hearing, subject to contempt of court," Cortez said.

Those violating the court's order on the sub judice rule will be penalized P20,000 upon motion of the aggrieved party.

Injudicious city prosecutors

WHAT kind of IQ do public prosecutors have in Quezon City?

Five men age a 14-year-old girl drunk and took turns having sex with her, but the prosecutors didn't think it was rape, only "child abuse."

Worse, the men even took a video of the lewd acts they made her and uploaded these on YouTube.

Chief Prosecutor Claude U. Ventura signed the case which was reviewed by Assistant City Prosecutor Lanthorne C. de Vera.

The investigating prosecutor—and the one who filed the case in court—was Manuel Luis P. Belga.

The respondents performed lewd and lascivious acts on the complainant by ... (censored). This was done by taking advantage of the complainant's intoxicated state. To make matters worse, the respondents and their companions recorded the entire encounter without the knowledge and consent of the complainant, the video was thereafter circulated in the Internet procurable by one of the respondents' companions who took the video," read the resolution.

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

And yet, to the prosecutors—Ventura, De Vera and Belga—the above-mentioned acts constituted only "child abuse" and not rape.

The prosecutors said the respondents "debased, downgraded and demeaned the intrinsic worth and dignity of the complainant as a human being."

Excuse me, sirs, but isn't rape debasing, downgrading and demeaning to a woman?

If so, why didn't your charge the respondents with rape, a much graver offense, than child abuse?

Rape is a nonbailable offense. In child abuse cases, the respondent can post bail.

"Whereafter, premises considered, the DISMISSAL (underscoring theirs) of the complaint for rape is respectfully recommended for lack of probable cause," the resolution concluded.

What "probable cause" were the prosecutors looking for since the video—which was presented by the complainant's mother and aunt—was shown to them?

Even an unschooled person would say that the girl was raped.

* * *

The victim's mother and aunt only learned about the rape after they were shown the video by a neighbor.

The victim said she was threatened with harm if she told anybody about it.

* * *

This is a questionable transaction worth investigating. The government-owned Home Guaranty Corp. sold a 2.8-hectare property in Vitas, Tondo, Manila, to G.A. Pm Holding Corp. in 2006.

The property was allegedly sold for P299 million, or P11,000 per square meter.

The fair market value of the property at the time was P526,000 per square meter.

Where did the P7,000/sqm differences go?

The Office of the Ombudsman should give special attention to this alleged "underpricing," if true.

ALMOST COMPLETE Concrete work on Skyway Stage 3's Sucat on-off ramps coming from and heading to Dr. A. Santos Avenue in Parañaque City is now close to completion, with project proponent Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. and main contractor DMCI Consunoji Inc. working nonstop to finish Stage 3's Sucat-Alabang section before the year ends. When this section is opened to the public, motorists from Sucat, Alabang and provinces south of Metro Manila can enter the elevated section from Dr. A. Santos Avenue on the Sucat On-ramp (right) while motorists from Manila or Makati can exit through the Off-ramp (foreground and right) going down to Dr. A. Santos Avenue. Travel on the Skyway from Alabang to Makati will be shortened to 11 minutes when the project is completed by May 2011.

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Quncio

UN doubts Burma election will be fair

UNITED NATIONS—With just more than two weeks until the first elections in Burma (Myanmar) in 20 years, a UN envoy on Thursday (Friday in Manila) questioned the fairness of the vote.

At the same time, the ruling junta, which has shown itself supremely unconcerned by criticism from the world body, greeted ahead with its military-to-civilian government makeover, unveiling a new flag, name and national anthem at a date and time apparently dictated by astrologers.

The fate of Iraqi-detained Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reads in eerie shadow any talk of change, and the country's highest court agreed to hear a final appeal to release her, according to media reports. The genocide who ran the country assembled the results of the last elections, in 1990, when her party triumphed.

Despite the hearing, scheduled for next Friday, speculation on her release has focused on Nov. 13, when her latest term of house arrest is set to expire and the election will be over. Her absence from the Nov. 7 elections is just one point that Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN human rights envoy for Burma, cited in casting doubt on the vote.

"It is clear the process remains deeply flawed," Ojea Quintana, an Argentine lawyer, said at a news conference here, noting that freedoms of expression and assembly had been further restricted and that more than 2,000 "prisoners of conscience" still languished in prison.

Torture is systematic and 144 such prisoners have died in custody since 1988, he added.

"The conditions do not show that these elections will be inclusive, free and fair," Ojea Quintana added. "The potential for these elections to bring meaningful change and improvements to the human rights situation in Burma remains doubtful."

Three opposition parties that have agreed to participate complain of harassment and intimidation, Ojea Quintana noted, while ones representing ethnic groups have not been approved. Candidates must pay a $500 election fee, a prohibitive sum in a country where the average annual income is $450, he said.

But 45 more, the UN secretary general, has failed in his attempts to engage in any kind of dialogue with the government, which even denied his request to meet with its most famous prisoner during his visit in July 2009. He has repeatedly said that the elections will be neither free nor fair unless Aung San Suu Kyi is released.

The government, whose response to Ojea Quintana was included in his report, condemned it, charging that there were any policies. Earlier this year the senior officers who make up the Cabinet all resigned from the military to join a new party, itself formed by the conversion of an old mass social organization.

The November vote is step five in the government's seven-point roadmap to democracy, with the convening of Parliament and the election of a president the last two steps. It is basically expected to be the same government, in some instead of uniforms. NYT

Toyota recalling 1.5 million cars

TOKYO—The Toyota Motor Co. announced a global recall of 1.531 million vehicles on Thursday because of brake and fuel pump problems, but stressed that the repairs reflected a companywide effort to be more proactive in addressing potential flaws.

Toyota, the world's largest automaker, will call back about 750,000 cars in North America, including Lexus and Avalon models, and 500,000 cars in Japan. The recalled models were mostly made between 2004 and 2008, a period of rapid growth for Toyota that analysts have charged coincided with lapses in the automaker's attention to quality. About 340,000 cars in the rest of Asia and Australia and 50,000 cars in Europe are also being recalled.

Quality at Toyota has been under the spotlight since the automaker recalled about 8.3 million vehicles worldwide over a range of problems, including gas pedals that could jam or get stuck under floor mats, causing vehicles to speed out of control.

Most of the vehicles in Thursday's recall need to be fixed for a problem in the brakes' master cylinder, spokesperson Paul Nakazato said. The cylinder, which contains brake fluid, could leak if filled with a chief impurity, causing a loss in braking power, he said.

Toyota has also found an electrical fault with the fuel pump that could cause the engine to stall, Nakazato said. That defect was connected to models sold in Japan.

The automaker is not aware of any accidents linked to these problems, he said. NYT

Canada colonel draws life for two murders

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO—The former commander of Canada's largest air force base said on Thursday he deeply regretted his "despicable crimes," moments before he was sentenced to life in prison for murdering two women.

Col. Russell Williams pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of sexual assault and 82 counts of breaking and entering, during which he took hundreds of underpayments from women and young girls.

Ontario Judge Robert F. Scott sentenced Williams after the disgraced former elite pilot emotionally addressed the court, lamenting his crimes and the pain he has caused the victims and their family and friends.

"I stand before you indescribably ashamed," Williams said, his voice cracking. "I know that the crimes I have committed have damaged many people."

Williams said he betrayed his family, friends and colleagues.

Justice Robert Scott said he believes Williams is sincere in his regrets, but nonetheless declared him a "sick and dangerous" man. Williams would not be eligible for parole for 25 years.

"Russell Williams will forever be remembered as a quintessential serial killer," Scott said, the court. "The depths of the depravity shown by Russell Williams have no equal."

Williams pleaded guilty on Monday to murdering Jessica Lloyd, 27, whose body was found in February, and Marie Comeau, a 37-year-old corporal under his command who was found dead in her home last November. Both women were asphyxiated.

Prosecutors spent much of the week revealing graphic evidence of methodically addressed Williams's secret life at a sentencing hearing that often reduced the victims' family members to tears.

Williams took pictures of himself in the women's bedrooms, posing in their underwear, and he meticulously catalogued the items he took from them and stored the underpayments in his home. Prosecutor David Thompson described in court how Williams raped, photographed, videotaped and killed Comeau, who pleaded with Williams to "have a heart" and spare her life. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Thai flooding called worst in 50 years

BANGKOK, Thailand—Devastating floods spreading from northeastern Thailand have left 117 people dead over the past two weeks as heavy rainfall has put entire villages underwater, destroyed crops and disrupted transportation and commerce. Thailand's relatively well-organized government services appeared to have been caught by surprise and in some areas overwhelmed, with some rice growers abandoning their fields without government aid. Officials describe the flooding, which follows disastrous inundations in Vietnam and other nearby countries, as the worst in half a century. Damage is estimated at more than $850 million. Twenty-eight of the country's 77 provinces have been affected, including provinces just north of the capital, Bangkok. With the surge of water moving toward the mouth of the country's largest river system, the government has warned residents in some parts of the capital to prepare for flooding in the coming days. AFP

French unions defiant as pension vote nears

PARIS—French unions dug in their heels on Friday with further strike action and a call for two more days of protests as a final vote on President Nicolas Sarkozy's unpopular pension reform drew near in the Senate. Signaling their determination to keep fighting even after the reforms has become law, France's six main unions called late on Thursday for a seventh and eighth day of protest action against the bill to be on Oct. 28 and Nov. 6. The government resorted to a special measure to speed up the reform bill's passage through the Senate, with a vote expected later on Friday (Saturday in Manila) as pressure built on Sarkozy to end the long-running impasse with the unions. In addition to transport disruptions, the president is battling 11-day-old refinery strikes and fuel depot blockades that have dried up nearly a quarter of France's petrol pumps and begun to take a toll on Europe's second largest economy. Reuters

Pakistan troops linked to abuses to lose US aid

ISLAMABAD—The Obama administration will refuse to train or equip about half a dozen Pakistani Army units that are believed to have killed unarmed prisoners and civilians during recent offensives against the Taliban, senior administration and congressional officials said on Thursday. The cutoff of funds is an unusual rebuke to a reckless ally, and it illustrates the growing tensions with a country that is seen as a pivotal partner, and sometimes impediment, in a campaign to root out al-Qaeda and other militant groups. NYT

At least 135 is Haiti dead from disease outbreak

ST. MARC, Haiti—An outbreak of severe diarrhea has killed at least 135 people in rural central Haiti and sickened hundreds more who overwhelmed a crowded hospital on Thursday seeking treatment. Health workers suspected the disease is cholera, but tests awaiting tests. AP

Belgian woman who sabotaged parachute gets 30 years in jail

BRUSSELS—A jealous schoolteacher who destroyed the parachute of a love rival causing her to plunge to her death was sentenced to 30 years in prison on Thursday.

In sentencing Els Clottemans, 26, the judge said the only mitigating circumstance in the 2006 slaughter murder was her feeble psychological condition. Clottemans is scheduled to appeal the sentence.

She was sentenced a day after she was found guilty of murdering Els Van Doren by sabotaging her parachute as soldiers to use a safety chute would open during a Nov. 18, 2006, jump.

A jury of a courthouse in the first Belgian town of Turnpers agreed with the prosecution that jealousy motivated Clottemans.

She and Van Doren were members of the same parachute club. The killer and her victim were unfortunately involved with the same man, a Dutch skydiver, whom Clottemans viewed as her friend.

The jury said Clottemans acted with premeditation and that, as an accomplished jumper, she knew very well how to disable a parachute. Evidence at the trial showed she sent anonymous letters about Van Doren's love life to mutual friends and that she was psychologically unstable. Clottemans faced a maximum penalty of life in prison.

Her trial opened on Sept. 20 with the accused telling she was only one of the most called parachute fog and believe that Van Doren had shot during when would be her last jump. AP

REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Region V (Bicol)
Rawis, Legazpi City

OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
October 21, 2010

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education Regional Office V, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites contractors registered with valid classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to bid for the following projects at DepED Regional Office V, Rawis, Legazpi City:

Lot	Name of Project	Location	Contract Duration	Amount (Php)
1	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Malilipot CS, Malilipot, Albay	90 cd	3,144,000.00
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Tabaco Northeast CS, Tabaco City		
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Rawis ES, Legazpi City		
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Cararai ES, Ligao City		
2	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Daet ES, Daet, Camarines Norte	90 cd	3,144,000.00
3	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Bato South CS, Bato, Camarines Sur	90 cd	2,928,000.00
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Naboas ES, Naga City		
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Francia ES, Iriga City		
4	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Basud CES, Basud, Calaburnanan	90 cd	3,144,000.00
5	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Panagatan CES, Pilar, Masbate	90 cd	1,472,000.00
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Nursery ES, Masbate City		
6	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Pilar I CS, Pilar, Sorsogon	90 cd	1,472,000.00
	Construction of One-Storey Trio x 6m Pre-School Building with Toilet	Bentuco J. Lerma ES, Sorsogon City		
		TOTAL		15,080,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract. Have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the execution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Preliminary Examination of Bids and conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All participants relative to the Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA. 9184 and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

NO.	BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE	VENUE
1	Advertisement/Release from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI)	Oct 22-28, 2010	Office of the BAC Secretariat
2	Issuance and Availability of Bidding Documents	November 1-23, 2010	Office of the BAC Secretariat
3	Pre-bid Conference	November 9, 2010 2:00 p.m.	DepED RO V, REGC, Rawis, Legazpi City
4	Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 23, 2010 10:00 a.m.	DepED RO V, REGC, Rawis, Legazpi City
5	Bid Evaluation	November 24, 2010	Director's Conference Room
6	Post Qualification	November 25-26, 2010	
7	Approval of Resolution/Issuance of Notice of Award	December 3, 2010	
8	Contract Preparation and Signing	December 3-9, 2010	
9	Approval of Contract by Higher Authority	December 10, 2010	
10	Issuance of Notice to Proceed	December 13, 2010	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos Only (Php 1,000.00) for Lots 2 and 4, Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php 2,000.00) for Lots 5 and 6, Three Thousand Pesos Only (Php 3,000.00) for Lot 3 and Four Thousand Pesos only (Php 4,000.00) for Lot 1, to the Department of Education Regional Office No. V Cashier. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The Department of Education RO V will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on same which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education RO V BAC, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) JOSE B. BOMTO
BAC Vice-Chairperson

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Thurs 3 pm
Nakibertday kami kay kumare kanina, hon!

Wed 3 pm
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WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Serious
Pacquiao trains in the rain /A26

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molavedra
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

Kings crush Energy B'sters

Ginebra leans on late surge

By Mauro R. Castillo

IT TOOK Barangay Ginebra almost a full three quarters to get going, and coach Jong Uichico knows that this kind of effort won't be enough when the Gin Kings play the big boys later on.

"We still have a lot of work to do," Uichico declared shortly after a 93-74 victory over lowly Barako Bull last night at the Cuneta Astrodome that put his squad at 2-2 in the PBA Philippine Cup.

"We just broke loose in the fourth quarter and that was basically the ballgame for us.

"We were shaky the entire time and we need to fine tune the execution," he continued. "It's a good win obviously because we got our morale back. Hopefully we can carry this over into Sunday's game (against Derby foe)."

The breakaway started late in the third when an 11-2 run sparked by Mark Caguioa opened up a 10-point lead for the Kings, 71-61, heading into the dying seconds of the quarter.

Ginebra, which trailed by five after the first period, then outplayed the Energy Boosters in the fourth, outscoring Barako Bull, 22-11, to complete one of the most lopsided results in the young tournament.

Caguioa let seven of his 16 points in the third period while Jeaneric Chan-hoo MVP Willie Miller added 15 as the Kings went on to deal the Boosters a second straight loss in a 1-2 card.

Rudy Hatfield contacted 13 points and showed a conference-high 22 boards. He missed the chance to do or surpass his career high of 23 after he was pulled out by Uichico with a good three minutes left in the contest.

"Rudy knows what his role is: rebound, defend and run the floor," Uichico said. "We have too many scorers. We need some role players out there."

Arlo Bitoomdao paced the Boosters with 14 points and Mark Isip had 13 and 14 rebounds. Undrafted rookie Hans Thiele scored seven points and had seven rebounds.

Meanwhile, San Miguel and Rain or Shine brush their third place tie today when they clash in a round game presented by Phoenix Petroleum at the Pasadena City Sports Center in Davao del Sur.

Game time is 5 p.m. with both squads coming off wins, though the smart money has to be on the Beermen, whose one-sided romp ousted Air21 Express from the double-digit deficits in the first half to extend over Giant's last week.

Araneta hat-trick fuels RP rout

By Cybill P. Tupas

VIENTIANE, LAOS—Jay Araneta came up with a hat trick as the Philippines got off to a running start in the Saudi Cup Asean Football Championship qualifying event by smashing Timor Leste, 6-0, last night at the National Stadium here.

Benefiting from the superb touch of Jason "Bonghalumot" on the right flank, the Ilonggo Negros-born Araneta headed in goals in the 27th, 41st and the 57th minutes as the RP booters emerged from a scoreless opening 30 minutes to score the rout.

"It's a good start but there's still a lot of things to work on," said team captain Dicc Nibasa.

"I'm happy for Jay and the fact that he is a local player speaks volumes of how much he has improved," said RP coach Simon McMenemy, whose squad hosts Laos on Sunday.

The Filipinos knocked in four goals in the first half, but denied from after the break and even almost conceded two goals if not for the outstanding presence of co-captain Aly Borromeo and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge.

Rivera, Posadas make cut

BENJO RIVERA bounced back from a letdown, collecting 5,692 pinfalls in the final six games of the elimination phase to finish ninth in the 24-man cut of the Qubica/AMF Bowling World Cup in Stockton, Prince.

Rivera accumulated pinfalls of 246, 188, 228, 238, 205, and 238 in the third qualifying block to stay 216 pins behind American John Janowiecki, who dominated the elimination round.

Apple Posadas, on the other hand, failed to build on her previous performance and fell a spot back in the seventeen side of the competition.

Posadas, who clinched the No. 4 the day before, dropped to fifth after scoring 199, 232, 245, 187, and 221. She is currently trailing women's division leader Sze Min Hsiang of South Korea by 156 points.

The scores of the elimination round will be carried over to the semi-finals.

Serious Pacquiao trains in the rain

By Roy Luarca and Ronnie Nathaniel

EVEN if sudden heavy downpour couldn't stop Manny Pacquiao from training yesterday morning at the Filipino ground-fighter's long supervised workout to the whole world Mexican Antonio Margarito on Nov. 23.

Using a cap and a white towel to shield his sweat-drenched body from the rain, Pacquiao calmly completed the speed-building and footwork-enhancing exercises charted for him by conditioning expert Alex Ariza at the Rizal Memorial track and field oval.

Retreating to a shaded corner at the stadium where onlookers, media and Team Pacquiao members sought refuge from the rain, Pacquiao sipped the strength-sapping exercise regimen by doing abdominal exercises with help from Filipino trainers Buboy Fernandez and Sonny Boy Jaro.

"This already at 9:15," Pacquiao told GMA-7's Dizon Stranded in Filipino when asked about his condition on a scale of 1-10. "Ready to fight na."

Team Pacquiao, including chief trainer Freddie Roach, will be leaving tonight on a PM flight for Los Angeles, where he's going to continue his preparation for the vacant World Boxing Council super welterweight crown at Roach's Wild Card Gym in Hollywood.

"There's still room for improvement," said Pacquiao. "I'm sure comfortable with my added weight and I don't think it slowed me down. It's just that I want to develop my speed further."

"I like it (Pacquiao's shooting during training)," said Arias, who at one time applauded Pacquiao for surpassing the target time.

Filipino boxers Rodolfo Sanchez and Nicko Mepranum provided Pacquiao company in the running drills that included jogging, sprints, backward and sideways running and lateral foot movements, but both eventually lagged behind.

Pacman and PNoy

Pacquiao, a 6-1 favorite over Margarito, met with President Aquino at around 2 p.m. The congressman from Sarangani was accompanied by lawyer Rodolfo "Jing" Garcia during the meeting with the president.

Garcia said that Aquino, whom Ms. Aquino walked in on the room, he told Pacquiao "I have only 10 minutes," but ended up chatting with the Filipino icon for around 40 minutes.

He said Pacquiao invited the President to watch his fight at the Dallas Cowboys Stadium but Mr. Aquino politely declined saying he was "too busy and had so much to attend to."

Garcia said the meeting "will inspire Manny even more to fight for our country."

HANDY Pacquiao is starting to show the speed that has made him boxing's most rewarded punching machine. EDGARD GARRIDO/REUTERS

RP Patriots, Slammers vie for solo ABL lead

By Jasmine W. Payo

JASON IDOZA stamped his class during the Philippine Patriots' championship run last season with a string of double-digit games.

This time, coach Louie Alas wants none of that dominance when the Patriots dispute the solo lead against Hanoi and the Chang Thailand Hammers in the Asean Basketball League tonight in Bangkok.

The former collar-dwelling Slammers ruined their campaign (second this year by snapping reigning champ Cebu's import in person in Cameroonian Chris Exeter and Hans, the burly American who topped the first import plans with the Hammers last season.

"We have to play more consistently to stay there because he's been playing really well," said Alas. "And we also have to find Jason Idoza plays at the post."

The Patriots and Hammers, both at 2-0, take the floor at 8 p.m. at the Nimibutr National Stadium.

Although Anthony Johnson will suit up more for the Patriots, Alas said the 6-foot-6 American import isn't in top shape after missing their last two games due to a hamstring injury.

"So I will be back but he can't play 100 percent," said Alas.

Despite signing Johnson, the Patriots pulled off back-to-back thrillers against the Singapore Slingers and the Brunei Barracudas.

Kiefer averages a league-best 25.0 points, while Dixon scores 15.7 points and 5.1 rebounds for the Hammers.

25 races mark KDJM day at San Lazaro Park

By Mueng R. Castillo

A HEAVY moment of motion should be in store for long shots this weekend with 25 races headlining the final race days of the club's Klub Don Juan de Manila celebration at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

No less than 200 thrillers have been declared to run for the weekend, giving the organizing 42,000 the leeway it needed to throw up balanced races to be highlighted by tomorrow afternoon's 2,000-meter Derby presented by Hermann Leisure Park.

Immediate past 42,000 president Jun Alameda, who supervises the handicapping, was ecstatic about the huge turnout of horses eager to see action for the weekend.

"It's like the Arnie sig Mapúa," Alameda said, referring to the weekend atmosphere a few years back when the 42LP was still in Sayasan. "Seeing effective day will certainly enjoy the day so long shot winners could be plenty because there would be lopsided races."

Save for the four big stakes races tomorrow, the 21 other matches in the programme will carry additional prizes of P50,000 each through the support from the Philsuccess and Magic Millions in Australia.

A repeat of their Triple Crown duel between Sweetness Boy Sig and Caramelo in the Derby.

Bottom-line Bob makes Pacman pilgrimage

WITH 100 parliamentary Norman pilgrimage over and done with, Bob Arum is probably back in boxing's modest church—Las Vegas.

Arriving at Manny Pacquiao's training camp in Baguio City earlier this week, the high-priced boxing promoter sprinkled holy water on the Filipino icon's preparations for his bout with Mexican Antonio Margarito and proclaimed it, hallelujah! "fantastic."

"Of course you don't have to prove it on (while training)," said the creator of the Nov. 13 Dizon 14 in blissful local bemusement. "He's one incredible overachieving kid to—two thoroughbreds of his top flank stable. "You have to give more for the fight."

The gospel according to Arum runs not to no further for notice Pacific Beach and the Pacman pack—sycophants included—while they were ravaged in the city of Pines.

But with that pronouncement from the impresario of impression himself, the jury could be to no Congressman Pacquiao's readiness for the bout scheduled at the Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas.

Pacquiao himself told a television reporter that the last bugs of his knights regimen would be directed to speed—rationality of the blinding kind—the basis of boxing, after opponent like Margarito.

So in a media-opportunity day-for-later, Bayani Fernando found the time to confer with about other four business like the current BIR3 predecessor and tether sales, maybe, right?

Nope. The supposed media encounter was the incongruity of pay-per-view giant

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Dello

HSBC Corporate sponsors and other foreign media, according to my reporter friends in the station.

Most of the unwashed horde of Filipino reporters—including local Baguio media—are barred from the session. At Hyatt, some decided to skip the sweet allegation, including the local author of a major television network.

What happened? Check with members of the Pacquiao retinue and the Corporate Hotel management.

Anyway, the statement in Baguio of the HSBC exec sent a still-side sign that the marketing of the bout to pay per view customers is far from over.

Matter of fact, the selling of Pacquiao-Margarito will have an official start of sorts, with the debut of the pay-per-view fourth-July 7 scene heralding the fight between the seven-time Filipino champion and the crowdpulling Margarito on Sunday.

Millions of people in its path would have liked Typhoon Luis to make it in time of the Philippine area of responsibility but the pesky guy chose to do a long jump, with jumps and false starts...lingering for the longest time on the northern outbreak, including the Dizon event.

Juan told us, members of coastal Dinoyong Lin-Cordon City, Benin Dos, under siege with its dwellish winds from northeast typhoon up as the rare house of thirdwinds. We survived a heavy bombardment of nails and fresh horsewell from the coconut trees planted all over the place.

As if that unholy wait not enough, the Dizon-Dello Classic, supported by a strong event vacuum crushing on the coastal village from noon Wednesday till sundown on Thursday.

The people of the barangay, led by their Bonbon "Bibbo" cum in the occasion. They found inspiration and literally Pinoy Bayanihan.

Siagson's emergency rescue team and police officers led by city police chief Hanie Camille in building a wall of sandbags to save seaside houses; no one, hello dot ma, was hurt.

Discovery Channel hosts 'vertical' run

RUBY

DISCOVERY CHANNEL will host a "vertical" marathon on May 17 dubbed the R.A.C.E: Run And Climb for the Environment at the Bonifacio Global City Building in Taguig.

Participants will race nine campus buildings and towers, climb up the stairs until the 28th floor, return to the lobby and run around the park to conclude the race.

Interested participants can fill out registration forms available at Rhenforms.com. Apple persons or

nobles and Orrs Sports outfits or regular Wednesday through some vertical marathon running nuts ph.

"We encourage various front different ages to join and be part of this vertical marathon that without even stake three months to build your fitness. The opportunity to help save the environment by conserving energy," said Discovery Channel Director Raymond Mike Jacque Ruby.

For details, visit www.verticalmarathon.running.ph.

Tough Thai foes challenge Viloria, Mayol, Cuello

BEAUTY LOSING (27-3-0, 15 KOs) climbs the ring scene against Thailand's Lamsatchi Sor Vorapon (18-1-1, 12 KOs) in the Filing for Boxing on the Sep. 6 Friday Fight Fest on Nov. 5 at the Fresno Sports Arena.

Viloria will be the main event in the undercard event as Darwin Cuello (24-3-0, 14 KOs) versus Kongkrai Kiatpadtai as the former WBC lightweight champion (Tested Mayol (26-6-2, 20 KOs) against Pongsaritt Tales Sam (14-2-0, 4 KOs).

Highlands collars WGAP overall crown

TALANTAY SOUKLAKOS, banking on to romp at home the last time out, two away with this year's Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) overall championship, finishing with 38 points for a 14-point cushion over Agaisabella.

The Highlanders capped their season-long romp with a runner-up finish in Class B and a third place effort in Class C, at the close of the course-hopping circuit at the Sta. Elena Golf Club yesterday.

Jen Elena ruled Classes A and B at home to earn a berth in the WGAP Cup.

Highlands gained eight points when it hosted the seventh leg last month with victories in Classes B and C and runner-up effort in Class A. Agaisabella placed second overall with 28 points while Alabang topped Class C and wound up third in Class B for third overall with a 26-point aggregate.

It was indeed an impressive campaign by the Highlanders, who served notice of their title bid by nailing up six points on one win, one second and two third-place finishes on the second leg in Alabang early in the season.

Virginia Bote, Rosalie Sito, Alex Gilbert Tan and Andy See led Tagaytay's Class A team which included Emelina Flores, Lea Bermejo, Thada Isquierdo and Cristy Flores Bermejo.

The Class B squad was composed of Rosario Gimeno, Margaret Tan, Josefina Bautista, Willy Lucero, Rhenda Gaerlan, Veronica Velasco, Marissa Abegaze, Bernadette Pheng and Marlene Matus.

Catherine Bonn, Bernice Tan, Annabel Tan, Ma. Lourdes Bonn, Rosalind Vitto, Emma Mercado, Rosario Bernardo and Corazon Co, presidents of Tagaytay Highlands Ladies Chapter, fostered Tagaytay's Class C squad.

UniGames blasts off Sunday in Dumaguete

THREE-TIME UAAP men's basketball champion Ateneo leads the Metro Manila teams defending their titles in the 2014 Philippine Sports Commission University Games tomorrow in Dumaguete City.

The Blue Eagles will try to win a third straight men's title crown in the nationwide tournament where 47 schools are active in Silliman University.

The defending team in last year's edition in Iloilo City, Mapúa Manila will field the most number of schools with 12, followed by Mindanao with 10.

Western Visayas will have eight, Eastern Visayas and Luzon five each and the host province with six.

"The UniGames is one of the grassroots sports development programs of the PSC," said PSC commissioner Chito Loyzaga, who will also grace the sports science seminar prior to the league kickoff.

"I am very happy these sports science, which I have personally adopted as my advocacy as commissioner, has been made part of the event."

Mapúa Manila raked 10 crowns last year with University of Santo Tomas topping volleyball, women's football and athletics and Rizal Technological U scoring in taekwondo, men's athletics and squash titleist.

Ardina's 65 powers RP to 4th spot

DOTTIE ARDINA pulled off a near-perfect game at the Philippines' surgest to its best ever ranking at solo fourth with a nine-under 279 in the World Amateur Golf Team Championships in Argentina Thursday.

Ardina fired a bogey-free seven-under par 65 in the Buenos Aires Golf Club course in a performance that also propelled her from 33rd to a share of 18th with a 138 in the individual race.

"She played excellent golf, her all-around game was close to being perfect," said RP-and ICTSI team coach Rong Lopez.

The Philippines posted a nine-under 135 with Christine Jorda adding a one-under 70.

Mia Picazo struggled with a 73 after leading the RP Team in the first round with a one-under 71.

Ardina, a former Junior World champion, summed in seven birdies sparked by a 20-footer on No. 4 and capped by superb approach shot on the 18th that stopped within four feet.

Korea fired a record-setting 16-under par 128, also at the RAGC, for a 23-under 273, one stroke ahead of first round leader USA, which had a 274 after a 136 while Germany marshed 88's 128 for third at 277.

The Koreans shattered the record for a single-round at 532 set by the US in the second round in 1998 at Ain 448 Kim shot a nine-under 63, also a new mark, and Jeong Eun Hua added a 65.

Action heads back to the Olivas course for the third round on Friday.

THIS time...Phillies pitcher Roy Halladay outduels Giants counterpart Tim Lincecum.

Phillies hold off SF Giants

SAN FRANCISCO—Roy Halladay outdueled pitcher Tim Lincecum to keep Philadelphia alive with a 4-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants on Thursday night that pulled the Phillies within 3-2 in the National League championship series.

Jayson Werth homered for an insurance run in the ninth, Placido Polanco hit an RBI single and the two-time reigning NL champions forced a Game 6 back home in Citizens Bank Park on Saturday and another cross-country trip.

Halladay's bum...which appeared to heal—helped spark a three-run third inning, when Shane Victorino drove in the first of two runs that scored on a fielding error by first baseman Aubrey Huff.

San Francisco put in celebration on hold. The Giants now must win once in two tries at Philly for the franchise's fourth pennant since moving West in 1958.

The Giants wasted their first opportunity to clinch a postseason series at home since losing 1-0 to the New York Yankees in Game 7 of the 1962 World Series.

They had an chance to recover from that loss, which haunts San Francisco nearly five decades later as the team still looks for its first World Series title in Northern California.

The Giants still have two chances to recover from this defeat with Jonathan Sanchez set to start Game 6 against Roy Oswalt. Matt Cain, who hasn't allowed a run in two postseason starts, works in Game 7, if necessary.

San Francisco was hoping to avoid an other long flight East, preferring to rest up at home for the World Series opener next Wednesday. AP

Sashapova? Tennis star Sharapova, Lakers reserve guard engaged

SAN DIEGO—Los Angeles Lakers player Ratcha Vidasic of Slovenia says he's engaged to marry Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova.

"We are engaged and are both really happy," Vujacic said Thursday before the Lakers' NBA preseason opener against Golden State. "It's good and now we can focus on other things."

The agent for three-time Grand Slam champion Sharapova confirmed the news in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

Vujacic said he proposed to the one-year anniversary of their first meeting at a friend's barbecue. The reserve guard said a wedding date hasn't been set.

Patrombon also falls in doubles

JESON PATROMBON's campaign crumbled before two unseeded Koreans who handled him and partner Sergio Mojica of Uruguay in a pair with 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (11/9) decision Thursday in the boys' doubles quarterfinals of the Osaka Mayor's Cup World Super Juniors tennis championships in Japan.

Patrombon, the fourth seed in both singles and doubles, was also ousted out of the boys' singles after taking a 7-5, 6-2 loss to Germany's Constantin Chiki in the second round.

The 17-year-old Filipino is hoping to bounce back in the next two tournaments he's entered, starting with the 12th "Thailand International Juniors, a Grade 2 tournament slated Oct. 25 to 30 where he was worldwide last year. Marc Anthony Reyes

MANNY PACQUIAO AND PLDT MYDSL WATCHPAD:

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- Dollar slides before G20 meet /B8

Editor Raul O. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Cecile S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Foreign reserves seen to hit $55B by end-2010

Sale of $1B worth of global bonds in Sept. pushed up GIR level

By Bernice W. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S foreign-currency reserves may rise to as high as $55 billion by the end of the year after breaching the $50-billion mark in September, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando M. Tetangco Jr. said.

Tetangco said in an interview that, with three months to go, the positive factors that pushed the gross international reserves (GIR) to historic highs were expected to continue.

He was referring mainly to strong inflows of income from investments offshore and proceeds from the government's foreign loans.

The rise in gold prices in the world market also boosted the GIR, which also includes the government's holdings of the precious metal.

The GIR was also boosted by revenue of the BSP from its investments in foreign currencies, composed mainly of US treasuries.

Tetangco downplayed the possibility of the GIR getting further boost from more aggressive purchases of gold or other instruments.

TURN TO PAGE B2

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

Oct. 22, 2010

43.300

OCTOBER

STOCK MARKET

Oct. 22, 2010

37.82

(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks sustain uptrend

THE LOCAL equity market sustained its uptrend with the main index ending the week at a new record high.

The benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) on Friday ended the week at a record high of 4,286.87 points, 31.82 points or 0.80 percent up from Thursday's record closing. The broader all shares index rallied by 1.81 percent or 21.11 points to 2,717.26.

All subindices were in the green, led by the mining and oil sector that soared 2.53 percent. Advancers outnumbered decliners, 84 to 41, while 51 issues were unchanged.

"The gains of the stock market continue to mirror investors' confidence as all-

SPEAKER B2

BSP defies IMF call for rate hikes

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas will opt to keep its key policy rates at historic lows over the short run, saying calls from the International Monetary Fund for Asian central banks to raise interest rates are inappropriate for the Philippine situation at present.

"We [BSP] have no compelling reasons to anyone normalization of our policy rates in view of the favorable inflation outlook, well anchored inflation expectations, and the general uncertainty in the global economy," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said in an e-mailed statement.

Guinigundo said the BSP can afford to keep its rates low because consumer prices are rising only moderately, and that it should maintain the rates at these levels for now, given that recovery of the global economy remains on shaky ground.

With lingering global uncertainty, the BSP deputy said the Philippine economy still needs stimulus support, such as low interest rates, to sustain its recovery regardless of what happens on the global front.

Meanwhile, in its latest Regional Economic Outlook for Asia Pacific, the IMF said it is already seeing potential buildup of inflationary pressures given the strong economic growth rates of countries in the region, including the Philippines.

The country posted a 7.9 percent growth in the second quarter, the fastest pace registered in over 30 years. The average growth rate for the first semester stands at the same level.

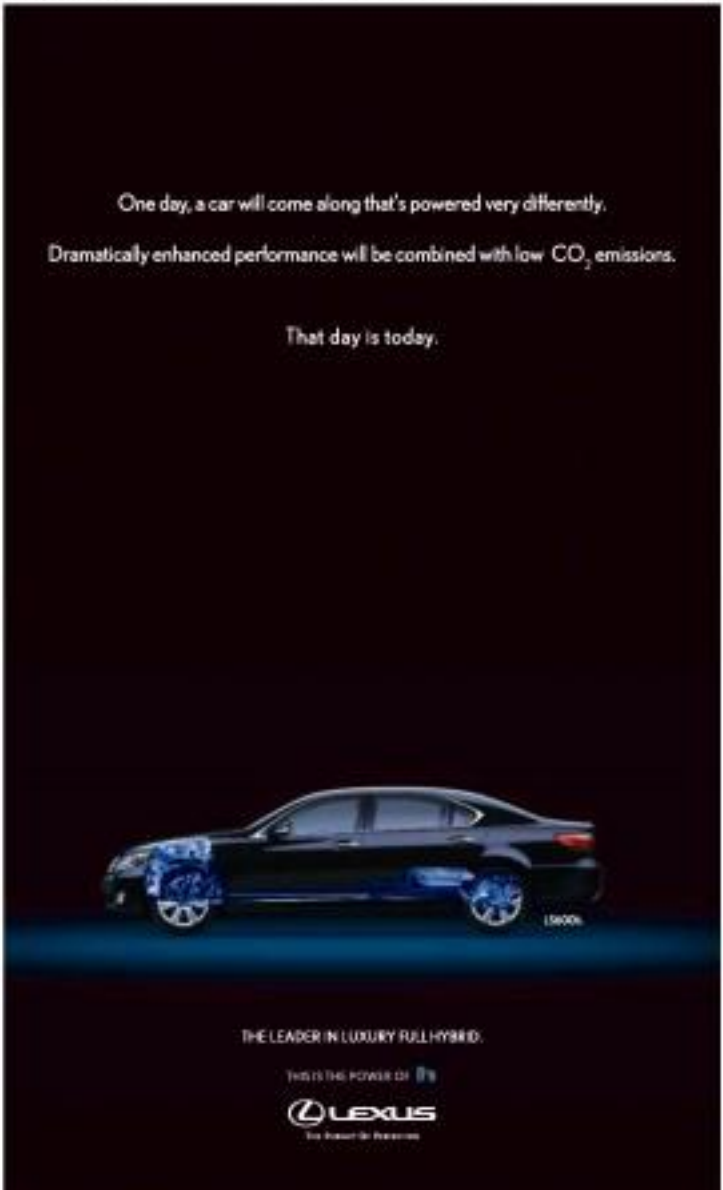
The IMF said in the report that the so-called output gap—the difference between an economy's potential growth that does not trigger economic inflation and its actual growth rate—is already narrowing in Asia Pacific economies.

As such, the IMF suggests that central banks in the region should start raising their key policy rates, if they have not done so yet, to avoid a sharp spike in inflation. For others that have already implemented rate hikes, the IMF advises them to further ease their rates.

"For monetary and fiscal policies are still generally accommodative and, with output gaps closing rapidly, inflation pressures could intensify next year," the IMF said in the report.

In the case of the BSP, its policy rates stand at

BSP B2



Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
9th Judicial Region
Branch 12
Zamboanga City

IN THE MATTER OF PETITION FOR SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS AND REHABILITATION

INTERNATIONAL COPRA EXPORT CORPORATION ("INTERCOP"), ANTONIO T. MARCIANO CHAVEZ, CORPORATION ("INTERCO MANAGEMENT"), INC., LAND CORPORATION ("CPLC"), AND MINDEE REALTY CORPORATION ("MINDEE REALTY"),

Petitioners.

Special Civil Action No. 774

x-----x

STAY ORDER

BEFORE this Court is a verified petition for corporate rehabilitation with a prayer for the issuance of an Stay Order filed by the above-named petitioner-corporations on September 9, 2010.

In its petition, the petitioner-corporations attribute the main cause of its inability to pay their debts as they matured to the unfavorable economic and global recession which worldwide economic meltdown, the high financial costs for short term loans and increases in bad and productive credit.

Due to liquidity problem was drastically aggravated by the moves of their creditor banks to stop transactions and terminating all remaining loans and the imposition of ordinarily additional loans for operating capital which resulted to the slow down of their business operations and reduction of their volume of business and consequent losses.

That the petitioner-corporations have more aggregate assets valued at P2,552,155,485.00 as compared to their total aggregate liabilities which amounts to only P1,016,626,807.00 as of August 31, 2010, but however the inconvenience of not having their banks when they needed it the most.

That the petitioner-corporations may be rehabilitated by suspending their payments and giving them new terms of payment, including allowing them to sell or dispose of capital assets no longer useful to carry the petitioners in order to cool the from existing business, as well as conservation of more to equity and partial waiver or usage of existing assets not used in business.

That attached to their petition as Annex "B" is the proposed Rehabilitation Plan.

After a careful and thorough examination of the allegations in the petition this Court finds that the same appears to be sufficient in form and substance.

IN VIEW THEREOF, the Court hereby issues a Stay Order, pursuant to Section 7 of Rule 3 of the Rule of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation and hereby orders the following:

1. Appointing Ms. Judy Ebreyano, as rehabilitation receiver who shall be considered as an officer of the court and who shall have the powers, duties and functions as provided for under Section 11 (a) to (n) of Rule 3 of the aforesaid Rules. The rehabilitation receiver is hereby directed to post a bond in the amount of P1,000,000.00, Philippine Currency, before assuming his powers, duties and functions and it must take his oath in accordance for under Section 11, Rule 4 of the same Rules.
2. The Petitioner is hereby ordered to immediately serve a copy of this Stay Order upon the above-named rehabilitation receiver who is on the other hand directed to handover the corporate books or records of the petitioner-corporations to the rehabilitation receiver or to any person duly appointed by this Court, in writing, not later than five (5) working days from receipt hereof.
3. Suspension, under any of the enforcement of any and all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by court action or not, against the above-named petitioner-corporations, and its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with petitioner-corporations.
4. The stay of all proceedings for collection filed against the petitioner-corporations and the stay of every suspension of the enforcement implementation of said proceedings for money judgment, claims and other interests, liens or proceedings. If any, against the real and personal properties of the petitioner-corporations, until further orders from this Court.
5. Prohibiting the petitioner-corporations from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties, real or personal, except in the ordinary course of business.
6. Prohibiting the petitioner-corporations from making any payments of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of the filing of the petition which was on September 9, 2010.
7. Prohibiting the suppliers of the petitioner-corporations from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the petitioner-corporation makes payments for goods and services supplied after the issuance of this Stay Order.
8. Directing the petitioner-corporation to pay in full all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this Stay Order.

The initial meeting on this petition is hereby set before this Court on November 12, 2010 (Friday) at 8:30 o'clock in the morning.

All creditors and other interested parties, including but not limited to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Insurance Commission, the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the Department of Agriculture, Philippine Council for Agriculture and the Department of Labor and Employment are hereby directed to file with the Court and serve upon the petitioner-corporations through counsel their verified comment with supporting affidavits and documents, if any, on the petition not later than seven (7) days before the date of the initial hearing, and they are not to follow that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings before this court. All creditors and interested parties are further directed to secure from this court copies of the petition and all its annexes within such time as is provided herein for the filing of verified comment and/or opposition and to prepare them for the scheduled initial hearing hereof and in order to attain this purpose, the petitioner-corporations is hereby ordered to file with this Court ninety (90) days from receipt of the petition and to furnish all creditors (10) days from receipt of this Stay Order.

The petitioner-corporations are hereby further ordered to cause the publication of this Stay Order once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in the Philippine Daily Inquirer and one other newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines considering the principal place(s) of other creditors and interested parties, and a second (2nd) notice (by publication) two weeks after the publication effected at least seven (7) days prior to November 12, 2010 at the commencement of the petitioner-corporations.

Atty. Nestor D. Rocher, the Branch Clerk of Court of this Court, is ordered to serve the Honorable Court Process Director, chief commissioner and without limitation some copies of this Stay Order upon the following persons, to wit:

1. Commissioner (Ms. (the Vice President and the Chief Representative of the petitioner-corporations) at 1000-A, Medina St. cor. Old Aguinaldo Sts., Cubao, Q. City;
2. Atty. Alonzo M. de Castro and Juan Alfonso Bonifacio II, de Castro – Chief Secretary to the petitioner-corporations at The Castro & Castro Law Offices, 7th Floor LDN Building, 116 Perez Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Metro Manila;
3. Atty. Judy Ebreyano – the Court appointed rehabilitation receiver, Ortigas Center, Pasig City;
4. The Honorable Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, SEC Headquarters, EDSA, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila;
5. The Honorable Chairman/President, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Malate, Manila, Metro Manila;
6. The Honorable Chairman, Insurance Commission, Manila;
7. The Honorable Chairman, National Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board;
8. The Honorable Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Quezon City;
9. The Honorable Manager, Philippine Council Authority, Quezon City;
10. The Honorable Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment, Manila;
11. Bureau of Dev. 7121 Bank Towers, Makati Avenue cor. 8-1/ Ayala Center, Makati City, Metro Manila;
12. Asian Commercial Banking Corporation, Tytangco Road, 40-800 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila;
13. Philippine National Bank, PNB Building, PNB Financial Center, Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila;
14. Allied Banking Corporation, Allied Bank Center, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila;
15. Development Bank of the Philippines, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila;
16. Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI Building Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila;
17. China Banking Corporation, CBC Building, 8745 Paseo de Roxas cor. Villar St., Makati City, Metro Manila;
18. Philippine Veterans Bank Corporation, 7th Floor, Tower 1, PVB Center cor. V.A. Rufino St., Salcedo Village, Makati City, Metro Manila;
19. Unionbank of the Philippines, Unionbank Plaza, Meralco Avenue cor. Onyx and Sapphire Streets, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila;
20. Philippine Savings Bank, 17th Floor, Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA cor. Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City;
21. East West Banking Corporation, Richa Jade Wings Building, Ortigas Center, Pasig City;
22. Security Bank, Security Bank Corporate Center, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan City.

SO ORDERED.

Filed this 13th day of September 2010 at Zamboanga City, Philippines.

ANTONIO C. DE LA PEÑA III
Presiding Judge

(BS) Volume 16, (3) & (4), (2010)

Meralco net ₱9.2B as of Sept.

By Amy R. Remo

MANILA ELECTRIC Co., the country's biggest power distributor, posted an 80-percent surge in its consolidated core net income in the first nine months of the year to P9.2 billion, due largely to higher volume of energy sold.

In a briefing yesterday, Meralco chief finance officer Betty C. Ong-Tan said more energy was sold in the period due to warmer temperatures as well as higher demand from the commercial and industrial customers, reflecting the improvement in economic activity.

According to Ong, the total volume of energy sold in the first three quarters of the year rose 11 percent to 22,666 gigawatt hours compared with the same period in 2009.

The higher power consumption, Meralco said, was triggered by robust economic growth spurred partly by strong consumer demand and increased business confidence. The effect of slightly longer billing days and warmer temperatures, which increased use of airconditioners, also helped push up demand.

Also, the increased consumption in the first nine months was further boosted by the 3-per-cent increase in billed customers to 4.6 million, as well as the distribution rate adjustments approved by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), which in turn boosted consolidated electricity revenue, Tan added.

Consolidated revenue—97 percent of which can be attributed to electricity sales—increased by 33 percent to P198.9 billion in the first nine months of the year.

Ong reported that consolidated revenue from total electricity sales amounted to P183.4 billion during the period, up 32 percent compared with the same period last year.

Energy sales to the industrial sector alone accounted for 29 percent of total energy sales, or 6,535 gWh. The semiconductor, wires and cables, plastic and food manufacturers led the increased consumption of the industrial sector. The commercial sector, notably telecommunications, entertainment services, hotel chains and BPOC and private services (hotels, hospitals, malls), consumed 6,411 gWh.

Demand from the residential customers, which accounted for 31 percent of the total customer base, was flat and accounted for 22 percent of the total energy sold.

In the same briefing, Meralco president and CEO Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company expects its earnings to forecasted core net income this year of P11 billion.

BSP defies . . .

From page B1

6 percent for overnight borrowing and 6 percent for overnight lending, the lowest in the monetary authority's history.

The rates have stood at those levels since July last year. The BSP has since been keeping the benchmark rates low to keep borrowing costs at record levels to encourage bank loans, which help fuel consumption and investments, and thus temper the negative effects of the global crisis.

Low interest rates are partly credited for helping the Philippines avoid a recession last year, during which many economies, led by its Australian and Japanese counterparts, contracted.

The BSP said, however, that keeping rates too low for too long could cause demand to spike substantially, thus causing consumer prices to rise beyond tolerable limits. It said raising the rates now or most would ensure that consumer demand will have no dead ends sharp increases in consumer prices that could eventually destabilize growth.

In response, economists said that unlike some Asian economies, the Philippines is not so far facing any significant inflationary threat. Some economists even expect a spike over the medium-term that is consistent with targets of ceilings, he said.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

RP vehicle industry continues to lose out to Thailand

GM expands sales network in local market

By Abigail L. Ho

DESPITE ITS aggressive expansion efforts in Asia, General Motors, as well as other major car makers, is passing over the Philippines as a potential location for a manufacturing facility, choosing instead to beef up its operations in Thailand with a fresh $500-million investment.

GM Thailand/Southeast Asia president Martin Apfel said the American vehicle manufacturer took into consideration a lot of key factors before making a decision to put up a manufacturing facility in any country.

"The decision to build (a manufacturing facility) is a big and long-term commitment, considering the amount of investment involved. It's a matter of critical mass, landed costs, and the alternatives that we have (in terms of location)," he said in a briefing yesterday.

Right now, he said GM had no plans to put up any more manufacturing facilities in the Philippines as it already had a Full plant," considering the $500-million diesel facility it would be setting up in Thailand, plus other projects in the offing.

What worked to Thailand's advantage in GM's decision to further invest there was the presence of a "dense and capable" supply base and a critical mass in terms of demand.

While it had no plans to put up an assembly plant in the Philippines, he said that was not to say the country was not an important component of GM's growth strategy for Southeast Asia.

He said that over the next two years, GM would be beefing up its Chevrolet offerings in the country by rolling out more models and by putting up new dealership nationwide.

Alfonso Arcilla, managing director and chief operating officer of Chevrolet local distributor The Covenant Car Co. Inc. (TCCCI), said 33 new dealerships worth between P30 million and P60 million each would be set up over the next two years.

These would augment the current 32 dealerships of Chevrolet in the country, he said.

"These are now around 30,000 GM units on the road, so we need a bigger network to serve all of these vehicles," he said.

TCCCI executive director Selene Pe added that Chevrolet would also be boosting into the lucrative commercial vehicle market over the coming months with the introduction of Chevrolet pick-ups and trucks to the local market—segments where the brand has no local presence.

"It grow a market, you have to start with a good network, get the portfolio right," Apfel said. "If you build step by step, understand the country from the ground up, any country has the potential to grow."

Foreign reserves seen to hit $55B . . .

From page B1

"The BSP is mandated by law to buy gold from small-scale miners," he said. "We do not acquire gold beyond that mandate."

The BSP chief added that in managing the country's international reserves, itself is a secondary consideration for the central bank's management in various instruments.

As of the end of September, the GIR reached $$80.54 billion, an increase of about a quarter from $$62.53 billion a year ago.

A primary economic indicator, the GIR determines a country's ability to engage in commercial transactions with the rest of the world.

These transactions include payments for imported goods and services and settlement of debts denominated in foreign currencies.

According to monetary officials, the record-high GIR made the country's external liquidity even more comfortable, earning the confidence of foreign creditors.

The BSP said the GIR as of September was enough to cover for 9.4 months' worth of the country's usual imports, and was equivalent to 5.3 times the country's debt servicing within one year.

The central bank cited the government's sale in September of $1 billion worth of global bonds as one of the significant drivers of the GIR last month, aside from proceeds from various loans including one from the World Bank.

CURRENCIES

Country	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	47.8430	1.000000	47.8430
Japan	Yen	0.458545	0.010586	0.5063
United Kingdom	Pound	1.61390	1.346800	65.3661
Australia	Dollar	35.6900	0.745910	34.1000
Switzerland	Franc	1.01215	1.183840	48.1171
Canada	Dollar	0.68860	0.814570	41.2135
Singapore	Dollar	0.82719	1.376780	67.1619
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.70276	1.697000	81.2264
Bahrain	Dinar	1.80539	2.650000	128.6000
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.191200	0.280514	13.6200
Brunei	Dollar	0.34969	0.754084	35.7145
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.00365	0.000132	0.0063
Thailand	Baht	0.02761	0.005815	1.3200
UAE	Dirham	1.30419	0.797194	37.9800
Kuwait	Dinar	1.56419	2.297000	111.9000
China	Yuan	0.07007	0.146000	6.9700
Denmark	Krone	0.14368	0.150000	7.1700
India	Rupee	0.71422	0.010500	0.5020
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.23163	0.053133	10.9600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.33828	0.727273	34.8000
Pakistan	Rupee	0.32158	0.003179	0.1521
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.01464	0.045553	1.9400

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BUSINESS

RP, others urged to rely more on domestic market

By Michaelle V. Reyes

JAKARTA, INDONESIA—The International Monetary Fund said the Philippines and its neighbors in Asia Pacific should strengthen market demand within their economies, noting that the sustainability of the recent rebound of their exports to Western economies was uncertain.

In its latest Regional Economic Outlook on Asia Pacific, which was launched here the other day, the IMF said the United States, among other countries in the West, had started to recover from the global economic crisis last year, but that the recovery was uneven.

As such, the latest rebound in exports of the Philippines, which has the United States and Europe as its largest markets, may not be maintained.

In the first eight months of the year, the Philippines' merchandise exports reached $32.97 billion, up 37 percent year on year. The growth was led by the rebound in the demand for electronics, the country's major export sectors in the United States and other industrialized countries.

Because recovery of the global economy was still volatile, the IMF said, the Philippines and other countries in Asia Pacific should work particularly on increasing demand for its economies.

It says that while demand by consumers is quite strong in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand, investment demand remains weak.

The average share of investments in capital of businesses in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand (called the basic 4) are below 22 percent, which the IMF said was poor compared with the average in other regions. The figure is 31 percent for Latin America, 33 percent for Middle East and Africa, and 35 percent for emerging Europe.

The IMF said it would serve the Philippines better if it would rely less on exports, and more on domestic demand. But that raising domestic demand entails boosting investments, besides consumption.

"Rebalancing Asia's growth model involves simultaneously restricting production and spending away from external toward domestic drivers of growth," the IMF said.

The multilateral institution said strengthening domestic demand would help shield the Philippines and its neighbors from the adverse effects of a potential slowdown in demand for their exports.

The Philippines has exercised a restraint last year, although growth slowed down quite substantially. It recovered this year given a strong household consumption fueled by increased remittances from Filipinos working overseas.

The IMF, however, said there was a dire need for the Philippines to increase government revenues to support its growth efforts.

TO THE RESCUE
San Miguel Corp. president and COO Ramon S. Ang inspects the 38-seater amphibious vehicle which the company acquired for its flood rescue operations. It also bought nine 4x4 LSV rescue boats each outboard motors for the same purpose. The amphibious vehicle, which is powered by a 2,000-horsepower diesel engine, is equipped with a life raft, life lamps, life jackets and other rescue and safety equipment. These will be deployed in different areas to help in rescue efforts in case of flooding. With him is San Miguel Brewery Inc. president Roberto N. Huang.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
RFU 4 Compound, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 920-05-11 * 929-65-10

Shellfish Bulletin No. 05
Series of 2010
(2 October 2010)

Based on the latest laboratory results of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Local Government Units (LGUs), shellfish collection at Honda Bay in Palawan; Honda Bay in Puerto Princesa; Matarinao Bay in Eastern Samar; Mercedes Bay in Camarines Norte; Lagonoy Gulf in Camarines Sur; Sorsogon Bay in Sorsogon; and Carigara Bay in Leyte are now declared to be passable shellfish gather that is beyond the regulatory limit.

All types of shellfish and marine life or animals gathered from the areas above-stated are NOT SAFE for human consumption. Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as guts and gill/gloves are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to be FREE from toxic red tide: coastal waters of Lamlia, Lan-o'an, Tambacan, Maribojoc, Bacalsalan and Bacsayan in Bohol; coastal waters of Bacolod, Iloilo, Guimaras and Negros; San Juan and Lanuza Bays in Surigao del Sur; Davao Gulf; coastal waters of Bongao and Languyan in Tawi-Tawi; Illana Bay; Sarangani Bay; Maguindanao; Lanao del Norte; Misamis Occidental; Misamis Oriental; Camiguin; Cagayan de Oro; Iligan Bay; Butuan Bay; Agusan del Norte; Agusan del Sur; Surigao del Norte; Surigao del Sur; Dinagat Islands; Siargao; Davao Oriental; Davao del Sur; Davao del Norte; Compostela Valley; Cotabato; Sultan Kudarat; Sarangani; Zamboanga del Sur; Zamboanga del Norte; Zamboanga Sibugay; Basilan; Sulu; Tawi-Tawi; Puerto Princesa City; Palawan; coastal waters of Mati, Philippines; Davao City; Digos and Sigaboy in Digos; coastal waters of Sta. Cruz, Philippines; Davao City; Digos and Sigaboy in Digos; coastal waters of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur; Malalag Bay; Davao City; Malalag, Magsaysay, Padada, Hagonoy, Matanao, Bansalan and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur; Malita, Santa Maria, Don Marcelino, Jose Abad Santos, Sarangani, Glan, Alabel, Malapatan and Maasim in Sarangani; Polomolok, Tupi, Tampakan, Koronadal City, Norala, Surallah, Tantangan, Lake Sebu, T'Boli, Banga, Sto. Nino, Tupi, Koronadal City, Norala, Surallah, Tantangan, Lake Sebu, T'Boli, Banga, Sto. Nino, Polomolok in South Cotabato; Isulan, Esperanza, Lebak, Kalamansig, Lutayan, Columbio, Bagumbayan, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Sumagka, Talayan, Pres. Quirino, Palimbang, Sen. Ninoy Aquino in Sultan Kudarat; Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Datu Blah Sinsuat, Mamasapano, Talitay, Pagalungan, Paglat, Sultan Mastura, Buluan, Datu Paglas, Upi, Gen. S. K. Pendatun, Guindulungan, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Rajah Buayan, Datu Salibo, Mamasapano, Talitay, Pagalungan, Paglat, Sultan Mastura, Buluan, Datu Paglas, Upi, Gen. S. K. Pendatun, Guindulungan, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Datu Unsay, Datu Abdullah Sangki, Rajah Buayan, Datu Salibo in Maguindanao; Marawi City, Lanao del Sur; Iligan City, Lanao del Norte; Misamis Occidental; Misamis Oriental; Camiguin; Cagayan de Oro; Iligan Bay; Butuan Bay; Agusan del Norte; Agusan del Sur; Surigao del Norte; Surigao del Sur; Dinagat Islands; Siargao; Davao Oriental; Davao del Sur; Davao del Norte; Compostela Valley; Cotabato; Sultan Kudarat; Sarangani; Zamboanga del Sur; Zamboanga del Norte; Zamboanga Sibugay; Basilan; Sulu; Tawi-Tawi; Puerto Princesa City; Palawan; coastal waters of Mati, Philippines; Davao City; Digos and Sigaboy in Digos; coastal waters of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur; Malalag Bay; Davao City; Malalag, Magsaysay, Padada, Hagonoy, Matanao, Bansalan and Kiblawan in Davao del Sur; Malita, Santa Maria, Don Marcelino, Jose Abad Santos, Sarangani, Glan, Alabel, Malapatan and Maasim in Sarangani; Polomolok, Tupi, Tampakan, Koronadal City, Norala, Surallah, Tantangan, Lake Sebu, T'Boli, Banga, Sto. Nino, Polomolok in South Cotabato; Isulan, Esperanza, Lebak, Kalamansig, Lutayan, Columbio, Bagumbayan, Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat, Sultan Sumagka, Talayan, Pres. Quirino, Palimbang, Sen. Ninoy Aquino in Sultan Kudarat; Cotabato City, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang, Datu Blah Sinsuat

BUSINESS

BCDA opens Boni South project to more bids

Submission deadline moved to Nov. 19

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BASES Conversion and Development Authority has given a 30-day extension on the submission of eligibility requirements to bidders seeking to challenge SM Land Inc.'s bid to develop the 55.1-hectare Bonifacio South property.

In a statement the other day, BCDA executive vice president Aileen Zona said the Oct. 29 deadline had been moved to Nov. 19 to give more time for the BCDA, Department of National Defense, and Armed Forces of the Philippines to resolve issues concerning certain aspects of the property's development.

Part of the contract to develop the Bonifacio South property—now the Market! Market! retail complex—is the relocation and replacement of military facilities within the parcels of land covered by the development contract.

"An aspect of the deal, Zona said, was crucial to the bidding process since this would reduce the risks associated with the development of the property once awarded to the winning proponent.

"This will certainly result in a more competitive selection process and will maximize the yield for the government," she said.

The property up for development is composed of parcels of land currently occupied by the Army Support Command (Ascom) and Special Services Unit (SSU) of the Philippine Army and the Bonifacio Naval Station (BNS) and Philippine Marine Corps (PMC) of the Philippine Navy.

The Bonifacio South master plan provided for the development of the 850,000-square-meter area into a medium to high-density residential and mix-use complex, with a strong institutional component and a maximum allowable gross floor area of 1.553 million square meters.

The entire property is located on Lawton Avenue, separated from the Ayala property by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) and is 60-hectare strip of land retained by the Philippine Army.

Six firms—Ayala Land Inc., Filinvest Land Inc., Jones Lang La Salle Lesshin, Megaworld Corp., Robinsons Land Corp. and Rockwell Land Corp.—had expressed interest in challenging the unsolicited bid of SM Land to develop the property.

Those firms see a great potential in the redevelopment of the area, given its proximity to the Makati central business district and other major developments in the former military base.

Those companies bought bidding documents for the project.

Zona said those six firms would be advised of the new timetable of activities for the bidding process, in light of the 30-day deadline extension.

This was the second time that the BCDA moved the deadline for the submission of eligibility documents for the Bonifacio South property.

The original Sept. 20 deadline was moved to Oct. 20 to give way to the request of one of the bidders for more time to complete its documentary requirements from government offices.

SM Land's unsolicited proposal for the development of the property offered an upfront cash payment of P2.5 billion upon signing of the joint venture contract with BCDA.

The property developer likewise committed annual yearly revenue amounting to P21.9 billion for 20 years for a present value of P156,900 a square meter.

Apart from these commitments, SM Land also offered to advance the funds needed to relocate the military facilities that would be affected by the development.

No amount had been pegged for this part of the venture, as the BCDA was still reviewing how much the total replication project would cost.

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BUSINESS

Japan eyes US-led free trade pact

TOKYO—Japan's economics minister said on Friday that Tokyo should join a US-led Asia-Pacific free trade initiative to keep its firms from fleeting abroad, despite a backlash in the ruling party against the proposed deal.

Japanese firms are pressing the government to forge more trade pacts and crank up trade-related deals such as South Korea. Economists agree such deals are vital to keep manufacturers from moving overseas, taking jobs with them.

The government is expected to unveil its stance on free trade deals, including the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), ahead of an Asia-Pacific leaders summit next month in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

Masaji Matsuyama, Prime Minister Naoto Kan's International Strategy Minister, said Japan could join the TPP talks "soon."

But some ruling party members are opposed, as there has not been extensive debate within the party," Economics Minister Koichi Kaieda told a news conference.

"In the new session strong Japanese manufacturers have to produce high value-added products to stay competitive," Kaieda said. Setting "JPY would thus be unavoidable in keep manufacturing products in Japan."

Reuters

Dollar slides before G20 meet

HONG KONG—The dollar fell on Friday on speculation a G8 plan that includes foreign exchange, dovished currencies throughout would gain support at a meeting of Group of 20 moving, lifting gold and oil prices.

Major European stocks opened lower, with Britain's FTSE 100 down 0.1 percent, France's CAC 40 down 0.3 percent and Germany's DAX off 0.3 percent. The FTSEurofirst 300 opened 0.2 percent lower.

A positive outlook from US employ, the world's No. 2 US$ flat seven traders, spurred a rally in shares in the technology sector and pushed up Asian stocks, which are headed for its first weekly decline in two months.

G20 nations should refrain from currency policies aimed at gaining a competitive edge and aim to keep trade imbalances contained, US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner said in a letter to finance chiefs in the group to be meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea. Canada said it supported the proposals.

However, developing economies such as China may be cool to the idea of letting their currencies fly when the Federal Reserve is discussing a new round of quantitative easing to help the US economy recover from its worst recession since the Great Depression.

"We believe that easing is right to add additional short USD exposure at EUR," they said in a note. "Since we believe that aggressive unsupported opposition by coordinated action to manage the USD's decline will not be met, we expect that disappointment could translate into a further broad based decline in USD."

The US dollar index, which measures the dollar's performance against a basket of six other major currencies, reversed early gains and fell 0.2 percent.

Dealers have spent most of the week taking profits on their bets on emerging Asian currencies, particularly after China raised interest rates for the first time since 2007 on Tuesday, sparking fears about the impact on growth.

The dollar is up 1.1 percent on the week against the Korean won and 0.9 percent against the Malaysian ringgit.

The main reasons for the upward pressure on emerging market currencies has been that capital flows into these high growth regions have been somewhat more September, when expectations grew that the Fed will basically have to print dollars to buy more assets and pull down market rates.

Indeed, global emerging market equity funds attracted a net $5.78 billion in new money while emerging market bond funds took in more than $1 billion in the week ended Oct. 20, fund tracker EPFR Global said in a note.

With more than two months to go until the end of the year, inflows to emerging markets have already exceeded 2009

Reuters

Gold, oil prices up on speculation

(3rd reading)

Hot financial markets, at stake in the G20 meeting is whether to keep alive what has been a dominant trade since September of selling dollars to buy emerging market equities, commodities and longer maturity bonds. So far on Friday, dealers have been willing to add to the trade.

Citi's currency strategists recommended adding to bets against the dollar ahead of the weekend.

"We believe that easing is right to add additional short USD exposure at EUR," they said in a note. "Since we believe that aggressive unsupported opposition by coordinated action to manage the USD's decline will not be met, we expect that disappointment could translate into a further broad based decline in USD."

The US dollar index, which measures the dollar's performance against a basket of six

BLOCON NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AIG raises $17.9B, prices AIA shares at top

HONG KONG—AIA, the Asian life insurance arm of AIG, raised $17.9 billion by pricing its Hong Kong IPO at the top of its range, as investors piled into a company with a wide footprint across rapidly growing markets.

The pricing of the IPO, set to be the world's third biggest, comes amid a boom of new listings in Asia and puts an end to a long-running saga for American International Group Inc.

Its bid to sell AIA and use some of the proceeds to pay back part of a whopping $182.3 billion US bailout it received during the financial crisis began two years ago and included two failed auction attempts and two flotation efforts.

AIA said on Friday the IPO was priced at HK$28.00 each and fully exercised the upsize option, confirming an earlier Reuters report. If the underwriters exercise the overallotment option, the IPO size will rise by 15 percent to $20.5 billion.

AIA's trading debut is set for Oct. 29.

"Investors did not dare to miss this jumbo deal, as the market has ample liquidity and the sentiment is very strong," said Rosanna Cheng, a fund manager at Gain from Management Ltd.

AIA has been in the Asian region for more than 90 years and operates in 21 markets, each because you can opening profit of $1 billion.

Life insurance premiums in Asia Pacific are forecast to grow at a compound annual rate of 11.3 percent between 2009-2014, figure from its estimates, compared with flat to modest growth in other parts of the world.

The IPO will value AIA at $30.5 billion at the top end, with AIG holding a 42.6 percent stake that will drop to 33 percent if the green shoe option is exercised in full.

"It's more or less fully valued after the shares were sold at the top end," said Francis Lun, general manager with Fulbright Securities. "Half one could expect a 5 percent upside or so."

AIA sold 5.36 billion secondary shares and exercised the upsize option to sell an additional 1.17 billion secondary shares due to strong demand from investors.

Unlike many other foreign insurers, AIA has 100 percent ownership of its entities in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. AIA has more than 300,000 agents in Asia.

Reuters

Shaping the future. (L to R) Alex Cua, Linde Philippines Head of Strategic Marketing; Bonnie Jordan, Linde Philippines Managing Director; and Tristan Dantes, Linde Philippines General Manager of Visayas and Mindanao highlight the commitment of Linde to drive sustainable growth in local industries and reinforce market leadership with the company's rebranding launch at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. KJC

PROPERTY

Editor Cesar D. Mangosong

Resort-like condo living in Tagaytay City

ALL the trappings of that urban resort-like condo living are offered here at an affordable, reasonable price for all.

By Erman Cena

FOR DECADES now, we are made to believe that only the moneyed for could afford properties in prime locations like Tagaytay City. Crisp, nippy air at the comfort of our homes comes with a hefty price. We thought vacation homes or rest houses are the privilege of the select few. Until one day, SM Development Corp. opened its doors for everyone to invade average earners who likewise dream of having a piece of home in the city dubbed as the country's second summer capital next to the pined Baguio City.

No wonder that in a span of few months SM's Wind Residences in Tagaytay sold like hotcakes and continues to draw more buyers from here and abroad. Last week, its second tower was unveiled before the members of the press. Its first tower, among the 13 towers to be built in the sprawling 23-hectares of land, was opened last year.

"We attribute the success [of Wind Residences] from various factors. All the trappings of luxurious living, are offered here at an affordable, reasonable price for all. These are the exact reasons sets of Wind, according to its project director Sandra Vicente Antel in an interview with buyers in Property.

Right on, Wind Residences takes the lead in that market segment: drawing investors composed of retirees, overseas Filipino workers, middle-income earners and young professionals.

Perched at the heart of Tagaytay, Wind Residences sales-pride is an unbridled resort-like condominium living that boasts of amenities that could rival other world-class residences at a fraction of its price.

Second tower

Covering a total ground floor area of 10,350.61 square meters, the second tower has one-bedroom units with floor areas of 28.39 and 34.81 sqm. Each of the 662 luxuriously appointed units has an individual balcony intended to give residents a prominent view of Taal Lake and its neighboring towns and cities. Its proximity to Manila is perfect for the weary for take-a-breaks coming home to a place that embraces nature and nurtures living.

Javier disclosed that the units cost between P1.3 million and P3.4 million, making it affordable even to a starting family or young professionals.

But the bulk of the sales are from retirees and OFWs (overseas Filipino workers) who buy as many units. Those are "repeat buyers"

READ FEATURE ON P4

THE INTERIORS speaks highly of the brand of living one gets to enjoy inside Wind Residences.

Editor Cesar G. Pangyarihan

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Mail us your feedback: inquirer.science@gmail.com / inquirer.health@gmail.com

The first 5 concerns when you're diagnosed with the Big C

By Tessa R. Salazar

IT SOUNDS like a death sentence, when the doctor gravely looks at you and your biopsy, and says, "I'm sorry, but you have cancer."

How can the doctor ease the shock of the news upon his or her patients? Toxicologist Samuel Epstein, MD, wrote in his book "Politics of Cancer Revisited" that cancer cannot be explained as something that just happens to people: "We need to see many cancers as being caused by exposure to carcinogens in the workplace, to consumer products in the general environment." In short, there is a reason for someone to get cancer. And knowing why is one big step toward patients being able to steal with this greatest challenge in their lives.

What are the other concerns patients, and their doctors, should face to address this disease correctly?

1 Research scientist Ralph H. Moss wrote in his book "Questioning Chemotherapy" published in 2008. "What is the proof that the treatment being offered will either cure, extend actual survival, or increase quality of life?"

Most stressed patients should ask to see the scientific papers and reports on the treatment. If necessary, seek professional help in interpreting the facts and figures. "You have a moral and legal right to ask for that information." We especially surprised oil doctors who say, 'Our treatment is so new that we have not had a chance to evaluate it yet.'"

Dr. Grace Ambin, an integrative medicine doctor for more than 20 years, advises patients to ask for epidemiologic rates of lung cases recovered cancer patients in the hospital or the protocol the doctor is prescribing. Ask your doctor this: 'If I were your mother or sister, would you prescribe this type of treatment?'

2 Ask for options, and ask for details about the proposed therapies that have worked, the numbers of years and the number of long-term disease-free patients in these treatment options.

3 Ask for the benefits of metabolic approaches. In the book "Outsmart Your Cancer," author Tanya Harter Pierce wrote that the most obvious benefit of using a nontoxic approach to cancer is that by doing so an individual does not damage healthy parts of his or her body.

4 Insist on making nutrition a key part of your recovery. Look for nutrient deficiencies and/or nutritionally oriented neurologists. Many studies in this aspect will open your eyes. For example, in his book "The Breast Cancer Prevention Program," Epstein wrote that a diet high in calories and animal fat supersensed two major risk factors for breast cancer. On the other hand, low amounts of chemical contamination, fat and no abundance of vitamins and minerals in vegetables and fruits have proven to help tumors at bay.

Scientist Jane A. Plant, a breast cancer survivor, explained in her book "The Six Daily Breast Cancer Prevention Programs" the link between the high consumption of dairy products and breast and prostate cancer in "What's in Your Milk?." Experts wrote that rBGH (recombinant bovine growth hormone) found in commercial milk producers milk that contains cancer that increases risks of breast, colon and prostate cancers.

5 Be choosy of your support groups. Pink ribbon campaigns for breast cancer are noble endeavors, but patients should be concerned of companies who claim one thing, but do another. Philippine Breast Cancer Network president Daisy Moreno (www.pbcn.org for contact numbers) warns, in his Facebook account, of "pinkwashers" who purport to support breast cancer by promoting a pink ribbon product, but who manufacture products that are linked to the disease.

Another issue is companies that produce drugs to treat cancer but have products that have been linked to the disease. One drug company which manufactures breast cancer drugs is also the sole manufacturer of rBGH. Its parent's corporate slogan is among the known causes of breast cancer (check thinkbeforeyoupink.org).

For other chemicals and contaminants that are linked to cancer, check "The Safe Shoppers' Bible" by Epstein and David Steinman, and "2009 Toxic Beauty," www.preventcancer.com and safecosmetics.org.

Reinforcing rice research needs

DISCOVER

Wassie Xandra Ballon

IN THE aftermath of typhoon "Juan" and the destruction of a significant portion of the nation's rice seed, rains stopped before they could be harvested, the loss in the story about the Philippines being the world's single largest importer of rice is easy to overlook, especially when one considers it's a label that's been applied in more than once over recent years.

The news reinforces a recent call by scientists at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) to once again elevate more attention to global agricultural research and boost crop yields. The proposal by Ivo Director Jochen Wolfgang Dauglar and his colleagues Mahesh Appraved in the August 2018 issue of the journal New Biotechnology.

Dauglar and Samarendu noted that simply relying on the crop varieties that were key players in the Green Revolution in the 1960s isn't going to be enough to meet increasing demand from a growing global population. They also cited a recent study from the International Food Policy Research Institute that showed "rising temperature and increasing weather variability are likely to have their greatest effect in many parts of Asia."

Lower yields

Other researchers echo their concerns. In the November-December 2010 issue of Field Crops Research, last researchers and their colleagues revisited the first modern "miracle rice" variety produced as part of the Green Revolution 50 years ago and found that yields had decreased by 15 percent in areas with tons of rice per hectare in areas of the maximum 10.3 tons per hectare that had been recorded in the 1960s. The team led by IRRI's Shaobing Peng attributed the decline to rice's the crop's inability to adapt to changes in environmental conditions and proposed a course of maintenance breeding to ensure that the miracle rise continues to live up to its name.

Second Green Revolution

In response to the changing environment, Dogler and Samarendu noted that research centers such as IRI have been developing rice varieties adapted to tolerate extended conditions such as flooding, drought. One example involves an ongoing project to develop high-yield rice plants that can grow in areas with limited water supplies.

Earlier studies have shown that a small rise cultivar is better adapted to cope with high levels, though the yields are equally decreased. But of the work, first described online back in April, involved the relationship between leaf width and drought tolerance, and the team led by IRI's Muhammad Farooq found that rice plants with broader leaves did better in water-poor areas than did rice plants with narrower leaves.

Ultimately, Dogler and Samarendu noted that a second Green Revolution is required to meet the ever-rising demand for more food supplies worldwide, and call for more funding to update the research infrastructure in order to meet the need.

"There is a 10-15 year lag between agricultural research spending and its impact on productivity," they wrote. "If we start reinvesting now, the effects are likely to be evident somewhere around 2025. Before it is too late, the world should start reinvesting in agricultural research and use all tools at its disposal."

(E-mail the author at tsalazar@inquirer.com.)

When time means survival...

(First in a series)

COPENHAGEN—THE cold screams weather as cars drop to really chilly temperature in this beautiful city, and not even the hot topics on some earthier rate being discussed in a conference here this week can make one feel warm about the critical condition many heart patients are in when faced with a life-threatening complication. In fact, it can send a cold chill down one's spine knowing the outcome of patients who are not promptly diagnosed and treated.

An acute situation is when a patient develops a sudden-onset condition such as a heart attack, heart failure or a potentially fatal abnormality in the rhythm or beating of the heart called arrhythmia. In such situations, it is imperative that the patient be seen immediately by a physician, usually at the emergency room so immediate treatment can be initiated. Time is not only gold in these instances; it can be life or survival itself. Prompt medical care can spell the difference between life and death.

It's heartening to note the advances which medical science has achieved over the last 30 years in terms of diagnosis and treatment; such that permanent damage to whatever organ is allowed can be minimized if not totally avoided. In a heart attack, for example, there are new laboratory exams which can actually identify a heart attack in the so-called "hyperacute phase" before death or necrosis of heart tissues can occur; and if the patient is treated early enough, say with proper blood chemistry and/or interventions like an angioplasty wherein blockages in the heart arteries are opened through a balloon catheter usually followed by deployment of a metal mesh serving as a fence to keep the artery patent, then a more favorable outcome can be expected, as if nothing happened.

Improved technique

The technique with this intervention has also improved significantly, such that whereas before, the catheter had to be inserted through the groin, and may cause some bleeding here on, smaller catheters are now available which can make it possible to insert the catheter through the smaller radial artery at the wrist. The bleeding complication has been markedly reduced using this technique.

There are also now available blood thinners which can literally dissolve the blood clot and restore the circulation to the affected area. However, since this will only be a temporary measure, and not the permanent solution, it is important that the patient be seen immediately by a physician, usually at the emergency room so immediate treatment can be initiated. Time is not only gold in these instances; it can be life or survival itself. Prompt medical care can spell the difference between life and death.

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Castillo, M.D.

PROPERTY

THE OBSERVATORY at the Two Garden Residences by Tower is another green living concession from DMCI Homes. Enjoy the unobstructed views of Makati and Ortigas through a landscaped roof deck with walkways, observation decks, seats and floor-to-ceiling glass walls.

Living the high-rise, high life

TODAY'S YOUNG urban warriors are known to be lifestyle-oriented. Most require living professionals, particularly those working in the bustling business districts such as Makati, Ortigas and Fort Bonifacio Global City, are not apologetic to spend both time and money in exchange of the hard work they have provided for their respective companies.

Many are health-conscious, and willing to spend a considerable portion of their salary in fitness centers to maintain looking and feeling good. Those individuals also refuse fashion, have a flair for social gatherings, and have already developed a taste for arts and culture.

Triple A developer DMCI Homes, has created a setting that aims to reflect the choices of today's modern workers, at a time that supports one's buying capacity. The unique offering, Two Garden Residences, is located just near the three major business districts and at the heart of Mandaluyong.

Two Garden Residences was conceptualized to provide a service orientation fortunately in mind. Aside from its most strategic location, the project also doesn't fall short of lifestyle amenities to complement the urbanite's taste for the metropolitan lifestyle.

Following a contemporary resort theme, Two Garden Residences features the modern conveniences that one only gets to enjoy by going out of his house and traveling a significant distance...whether to a gym, a resort or other lifestyle centers like malls and dining areas.

Amenities

DMCI Homes prides itself of its country club-type amenities where residents will find their activity needs fulfilled to the smallest and functional detail. The signed Grand Clubhouse at the ground floor Health hall will delight of the adult swimming pool and the fitness gym, while kids have their own pool and active area.

Social needs are addressed in the game room, entertainment area and multipurpose function halls. Leisure and recreation options are also found on one of its buildings, Bachelor's highest floor, the Sky Lounge, which promises elegant interiors, along with floor-to-ceiling glass walls that unveil stunning views of the cityscape.

To discover a whole new way of looking at the beautiful metropolis at night, one can simply go to the 42nd deck of Tower 2 Garden's rather roomy, the 40-story tris. Aptly called The Observatory, it features a landscaped promenade, sitting areas and viewing decks with telescopes for residents and their guests alike. Be one of the first to experience this breathtaking view of the metropolis, day or night.

Convenience, comfort and luxury go beyond the amenities and into your very own unit as the homes are designed with the typical young urban family in mind. Taking two considerations their needs for ample space and growing family, DMCI Homes makes sure that spaces are well-planned and sustainable.

Design technology

Healthy living is of course not just achieved by taking the lifestyle amenities. Through DMCI Homes's breakthrough Luminescent architectural design technology, one will find it easy to earn a home that's energy-efficient, comfortable while having connection of the environment all at the same time.

The design technology is composed of the following elements: Sky Holes, which are three-story high openings on the front and back of the buildings, and breezeways located on both ends of every floor, centralized atriums and simple-limited corridors. The architecture allows the free flow of both light and ventilation, maximizing available energy. Aside from this, air that is accessed in the homes are assured to be cleaner, safer and further since ample circulation is achieved.

The introduction of Sky Gardens also offers more than the health benefits but also the luxury of more space. Central atriums located every five floors—small, landscaped common areas...provide not only fresh air but also an esthetic relief from the concrete surroundings.

Living in Two Garden Residences will give the typical urbanites and their family an opportunity to redefine roads living in today's fast growing metropolis. Abundant amenities, energy-efficient and healthier living, ample living spaces and sustainable homes are no longer a luxury but an obtainable option for the Filipino family provided by DMCI Homes (www.dmcihomes.com).

THE SKY Parks is a 2-story high landscaped openings at both sides of the building where natural light and air enter and make or feel air is ambient and.

Property developer a Cinderella man

By Emman Cana

REYNALDO CARPIO started his success is legendary—he had his own business of wares coming from a life for sea deliveries from the time he was a one-point he repacked sugar and cooking oil in a store, worked as a gasoline boy, a bus driver, "boy-Friday" and a merchandiser's assistant. It was life as he knew it.

Some time, his cousin took a complete 180. Now an established real estate developer behind the Grand Monaco condominium line has he hands full with multi-million peso contracts—this time no more prime and pigtails.

It was no easy feat. His is perhaps a story made in heaven. Carpio joined he could invest in a business. Soon one of his seven Cinderella like saga to riches tale. His profits from all his real estate projects could keep the show afloat. Apparently, spending.

Under the Grand Monaco Real Estate Development Inc. are two mid-rise 2,000 residential units strategically distributed in Carpio's 12 projects in Metro Manila. Of the 12, three are located in Quezon City, four in Pasig, two in Ortigas and another ongoing project on Samonte Highway in Mariveles, Bataan.

CARPIO: "All I had to do is to think about it, start it and work for it."

Secret to success

In an exclusive interview with Inquirer Property, Carpio revealed his secret to success that he considers a tried and tested formula of entrepreneurs: spot, engage and disburse. For him, dedicate income using one's earnings smart at the right place at the right time and engaging the most trustworthy and reliable to problems.

On top of those, he religiously reads and follows the lives of the five great men of the world who have since become his personal idols. Biographies of Henry Ford the SM empire and Ted Hooks written about famous would leaders like US President Barack Obama fill up his shelves. He also keeps a CD each of instructional videos and self-help books that he gets as are when he is stuck in the road.

"Reality is life. I already profited myself up that I would tell myself one from poverty no matter what. All I had to do is to think about it, carve it and work for it."

He did—but not before he took on mutual jobs that paid him barely enough to provide for his own needs. He recalled taking home only daily allowance working for an architectural firm which hired him as a graduate survey engineer when he had just graduated. During his stint, he studied the ins and outs of the business. Little by little, he learned the operations of the construction trade. He started as a small-time contractor. At the age of 27, he earned his first million.

In 2000 he put up the Grand Monaco Homes, taking inspiration from a trip to the European countries of Monaco. "It was one of the few places I had my eyes on, so I brought the whole concept with me," he said.

Armed with a degree in engineering (both civil and geodetic), he started out building projects for big developers and soon learned the ropes. In no time he already established his name in the social housing and low-cost housing segment of the industry. Today he has 66 regular employees, three lawyers and 600-site workers scattered over his project sites.

"Owning a house shouldn't be a dream. Everyone deserves to have a place to call their own home," Carpio said. He is the executive vice president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders' Associations Inc. (Cheb).

The Grand Monaco Homes takes pride in its Mediterranean flair and architecture, designed with wide windows and cross ventilation to suit the country's tropical climate. He also added local Filipino touches to suit to the lifestyle of his buyers. He pointers are mostly subdivisions, townhouses and single two-story four-bedroom units with prices ranging between P2 million and P4.5 million. The entry level units have been selling like hotcakes.

Another source of the Monaco Homes is its being flood free. During typhoon "Ondoy" ravaging last year, Monaco Homes' projects were spared from its buyer interested buyers of Grand Monaco Homes are also given special payment scheme. Down payment of 20 percent could be given in 24-month installment. The scheme mean that occupants can own a unit for as low as P15,000 a month.

Still learning

Carpio finished college at the University of the Philippines and the Technological University of the Philippines. He obtained his MBA from the University of the East while he took his doctor of philosophy from the International Academy of Management and Economics.

He love adrian such books, or school, doesn't seem—not even when he already owns the many titles up his shelves. He's currently enrolled in economics program at the University of Asia and the Pacific.

That's how you stop learning, you stop growing," he said, as if it were part of the biblical 10 Commandments. The business learned that the real estate firm needs its staff to further studies and trainings. A good number have been enrolled in law and MBA schools.

On top of his everyday responsibilities and an average of 16 hours spent in office each day, Carpio still makes time for his family friends and passion. He recently dabbled in a musical show of Imelda Papin where he shares his vocal chops. "They keep me going," he quipped.

Overdevelopment

WE SEEM to have a way of self-destructing. When we see a good thing, it is in our nature to see, increase and abuse that good thing, no matter where or how.

Boracay was once a pristine island. But its beauty attracted so many to the point of its near destruction. Somewhere in the last decade, they had rezoned over the development there. Any attempt to regulate and police construction on the island was met and ended with the term of each local authority. There may have been laws in place but there is a lack of political will to enforce them.

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcelo Alcantara Jr.

Concrete jungle

The same is true with Tagaytay. The city used to have very strict building regulations but now it has a concrete city but become a concrete jungle. Houses or lawn, the real beauty it has been known for will be gone because there will be more concrete than greenery.

In Baguio, the fresh pine-scented air has been replaced with sickening diesel fumes. In much of the natural water has been turned out to make way for property development.

Even in the remote Palawan, the forests are now being cut down for the number and quality of divers allowed to visit the park and the bat tables in Sevill as well.

Even the parks and free spaces very many are homes, which are often the only remaining greenbelt within the metropolis, are being built over with hotsugar malls, commercial centers, parking lots and elevated condominiums. Is this really the road to "development"? Or is this the certain way to our demise?

The authorities probably mean well, trying to chalk up brownie points for spending on infrastructure projects, but they may not be aware of the effects of all these man-made structures on our ecological future.

Perhaps, some would be driven by greed, since more buildings mean potentially more income-generating space. Some are not aware that there is a real connection on the horizon, just on the verge of self-destruction. He lacks the awareness about, much less the will, to preserve a good thing. There is a sad commentary about development, an overadder epitaph to success.

Protected

In other countries, there are always a few areas protected. They know that when almost the natural is inaccessible will be gone and cannot be replaced. Even in the middle of real-estate frenzy New York City, its people have chosen to maintain the green expanse that is Central Park.

In our case, unfortunately, no one cares enough to do something about overdevelopment. We must realize to awaken every building, every and say: Sorry, we will affect our surroundings, our environment, our future. We must put more effort in maintaining nature in our communities. If there is a choice between conserving and developing, we must always give Nature a fighting chance.

Are your comments and questions, please e-mail to: marcelo.alcantara@yahoo.com

VISTA RESIDENCES' WIL

Quezon City's newest star address

WIL Tower Mall (artist's rendering), a star development rises in Quezon City's Timog area

AT WIL Towers Mall, high living means the good life, and even a chance to rub elbows more regularly with local showbiz's beautiful people.

The 42-story mixed-use condominium development is Vista Residences' flagship project in 2010 and a project set to be the tallest and most upscale building in the Timog area in Quezon City.

Located on Ingreso Legaspi Drive, Quezon City, the huge mixed-use condominium complex boasts of two towers, with the residential condominiums built on top of a four-level commercial complex that will be bustling with shops that exploit exciting local and international brands, lounges and local restaurant chains and 24/7 service to bring "ease" to every client.

WIL Tower Mall makes headlines for offering not just a stylish living space for Quezon City denizens but also easy access to the pleasure-seeker to user's daily routine.

The mall was designed to become "the" destination that will not only service the leisure and lifestyle needs of its residents, but all of Quezon City's denizens as well.

Conceptualized by top US-based architectural firm RTKL is partnering with Ayala Land, Asia, one of the country's biggest firms, in collaboration with Shoreline personality PHD, Steelcase, this 18-story marvel of glass and steel houses over 500 units in a variety of layouts and sizes—from studio spaces and loft units, to 3-bedroom retreats with amazing views of the city and beyond.

Landscaped garden

Part of the master plan is a shared landscaped garden, high above the city, complete with a pool, a spa, al fresco dining and other entertainment center and game room. Beneath the commercial complex are four levels more of easy-to-access basement parking.

With an average of 18 units per floor for the first building, Wil Tower offers residential spaces, such as studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units starting on the north floor. Out of a 25-square-meter studio starts at P2.7 million; a 51-sq-m one-bedroom unit at P3.7 million; and a 84-sq-m two-bedroom unit at P6.5 million.

Vista Residences' WIL Tower Mall is also a prime location for the country's top medical centers, top call schools UP Diliman, dozens of Manila University and Miriam College, and the biggest shopping and entertainment centers around: SM North Edsa, Trinoma, Gateway Mall and Araneta Center.

Tower 1 is already 80 percent sold out and will be ready for occupancy in 2014. Following on the heels of its success, Tower 2 will soon be up for sale as well, and is scheduled to be finished in 2015. The mall, on the other hand, will be completed in 2013.

For more information, log on to www.vistaresidences.com.ph/wil.

A 'gateway' to convenient and comfortable living

ONCE AGAIN, Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. further opened the gateway to the San Mateo. Continuing a new 23-year partnership with the people of Emico, this pioneering realty company resumed to usher in better standards of living with its latest development project: Valle Verde Residential Estate.

Strategically placed on 26 hectare land, a location that facilitates easy access to the Marcos International Airport via Pamasan, Valle Verde offers a threshold to the diverse and vibrant heart of the Philippines' Orchard Capital. It is a splendid refuge of modern luxury and amenities poised to enhance the city's astounding progression.

"Our city by leaps and bounds, takes the lead in commerce, trade and industry and tourism in Mindanao," said Emcies Vice Mayor Rodrigo Duterte. "The launching of a new residential hub is always a great news for our people. Valle Verde is another exciting addition to our city's increasing number of exclusive suburban neighborhoods and gives our people more options on where to build their homes and raise their families."

Up-to-date amenities

A sprawling 14 hectare subdivision, Valle Verde features about 300 lots that range from 150 to 1,150 square meters. Up-to-date amenities set to uphold its credo of "convenient and comfortable living." Truly modern shouldered by a versatile commercial center that provides a diverse selection of shops and restaurants. Secluded residences are accommodated by a fully furnished clubhouse, Mediterranean, recreation and healthy living amenities are covered by the soothing provincial charm of its lush landscape accompanied with open living facilities such as a basketball court and a swimming pool. It also features wide concrete road walks, paved side walks, an underground storm drainage system, a consolidated wastewater system, underground facilities and a fully landscaped entrance set to welcome you home.

"Sta. Lucia has really lifted the standards of subdivision living in the Philippines," said Lutgart "Bamma Maggay, the vice president for sales and marketing of Orchard Property Marketing Corp., Sta. Lucia's marketing arm. "Before all it took was a well that separates the area from the outside. But Sta. Lucia has taken it out that with its fully furnished

FULLY LANDSCAPED entrance welcomes homebuyers

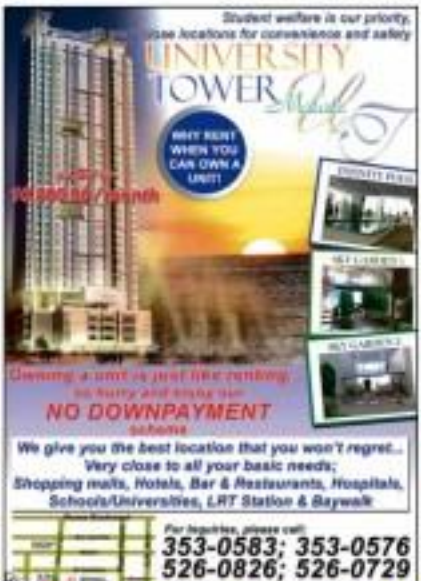
developments."

Valle Verde was launched on Oct. 23. The opening featured the 2008 Mr. Earth winner, Priscilla Meirelles, who led a dance ceremony under the city's eye-catching fortility tree. It also involved the releasing of butterflies to celebrate beauty and transformation, and a talent contest that involved 11 Emcies schools.

Prior to the launch of Valle Verde, Sta. Lucia developed six projects in the Davao area which began back in 1997. Those are the Rainbow Palm Wonder Golf & Residential Estate, South Pacific Golf and Leisure Estates, Alta Silvano, Riverfront Corporate City Global Verde and Las Palmas. And now, with Valle Verde, Sta. Lucia has once again opened a new gateway to "convenient and comfortable living" in one of the Philippines' most progressive cities.

PROPERTY

PR Kitchens Inc.



THE INSTALLATION is composed of recycled metal tubes and energy-efficient LED lights to create a living sculpture.

Asia's first sustainable light fest harps on energy efficiency

By Theresa S. Sumaoang

SINGAPORE— THE bustling southern portion of this city-state, known as Marina Bay, has become the entrance to a spectacle of colors and creative lighting weaved together through the various artworks of architects and lighting designers from around the world.

Lights are installations of 14 local and 20 international artists lined the Marina Bay area, which played host to Asia's first sustainable light art festival dubbed as the "i Light Marina Bay" project.

Although it was launched only last Oct. 15, the i Light Marina Bay has since entertained residents and tourists alike with the creative use of energy-efficient lights and lighting technique across Singapore's skyline.

For seven days (not just delighting to such excess, the eight festival episode is more timely message as it highlights the urgency and value of energy efficiency and sustainability, amid dwindling power resources and rising costs of electricity.

"Most cities seem to outgrow their electricity within a decade or less," said Nigel D'Arcy, regional business director of Philips Asia Commercial Lighting, in an interview with business inquirer.

"Philips' participation in the festival reiterates its commitment to the creative lighting community and is in line with its vision to showcase how lighting solutions can transform urban spaces, shape identities and create new experiences for local communities," he added.

The festival is featuring the latest award-winning light-emitting diode (LED) lighting systems from Philips Color Kinetics, as well as energy-efficient lighting solutions from Philips Selecon, which specializes in lighting entertainment and architectural displays.

Combining the many advantages of LEDs with advanced digital control technology without the cost and complexities of traditional lighting methods, Philips' lighting systems bring to life the festival's vision for their masterpiece through the generation of millions of colors and high-quality white light.

THE FACADE of Maybank building is transformed into a blossoming moon garden with the light projections powered by solar-diesel generators.

A FUNCTIONAL sculpture that illuminates at night (powered by LED lights) while allowing the public to use it as a sitting area.

THE LIGHT sculpture uses low-energy, sustainable LED as its light source.

Sustainable 'LED'

"In the Philippines however, the market for LED solutions is still marginal," said D'Arcy. "Although this is the case now, we wanted the Philippines and the other emerging markets in Asia remained to be important for them strategically.

He explained that Philips is now pushing for the use of sustainable lighting solutions in the Philippines as the company continues to work with the government to increase awareness and educate them on the benefits of LED in terms of energy savings.

In particular, D'Arcy said Philips is pushing for street and infrastructure lighting, which can be solar-powered. This can be used either in the urban centers or in the remote and off-grid areas in the developing provinces in the country, he added. There are a couple of ongoing trials for LED illumination.

Green technology

D'Arcy also proudly claimed that LED solutions are part of the "green" products of today.

"LED solutions are green, by virtue of lack of energy being used and it's lead- and mercury-free. We gear our source manufacturing around green, we also work with a lot of green architects [independent and government bureaus] to ensure that our products fit within the framework allotted by these green bodies," he explained.

Philips is expected to soon release its second generation of LED lighting solutions for homes.

"People who them LED solutions for their homes, assuming that consumers are people who are conscious of their energy consumption. They've making a conscious decision that 'I want to move away from conventional lighting to LED because I know it's going to save me money, it's going to save the environment. My carbon footprint would be reduced, but I understand it's an investment [and that] there's a price tag for that," D'Arcy concluded.

To demonstrate further its commitment to energy-efficiency, the i Light Marina Bay project is also being pursued with biofuels from used cooking oil, which are sourced from nearby restaurants and coffeehouses. The public can also exchange used cooking oil in exchange for a Philips energy-saving light bulb.

This initiative is aimed at creating awareness for better waste management, as it underscores how communities can positively impact the environment through a simple light bulb switch.

Resort-like condo living

Viewpage B3-1

who previously bought units and waited wanting more, Javier said. Businessmen, senior managers and executives also make up their target market.

Wind's Second Tower facilities include a 24-passenger elevator, 24-hour security, a well-appointed lobby and access to exclusive lifestyle amenities like lounges, a viewing gazebo and deck.

Common amenities

An eco-friendly community, the second tower shares common amenities with other towers of the development. These include a sprawling 2-hectare lawn, jogging paths for exercise aerobics and a playground area for children to enjoy. Refreshing areas of greenery can also be enjoyed with pocket gardens and breathing spaces for the building. BMEC condo users is promised the ecosystem balanced.

Sports enthusiasts are bound to enjoy the basketball, badminton and tennis courts for intimate or large gatherings. Wind Residences is a perfect place with its large function rooms and ballroom.

Combined with 5-star standards and property management services like housekeeping, occupants of Wind Residences are promised to have the pampered lifestyle they truly deserve, said Efren Tee, BMEC vice president for sales.

"Already, the feedback and upside that BMEC projects received are more than encouraging. Everything seems to be clicking, building up to speak, we've already taken our projects in new heights," Tan enlisted. At the end of the year, a total of 14 projects are expected to be completed under the BMEC fold.

The project director emphasized that with its proximity to Manila, Wind Residences works as a weekend or second home. Returnees who went to experience countryside and community living have finally met their needs in Wind Residences.

This affordable urban development will also be living unique opportunities for those wanting to invest a smart investment and access to first-rate facilities in a prime location like Tagaytay. Situated on Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Wind Residences affords its residents catered access. Its setting also serves as a gateway to nearby provinces of Batangas and Cavite.

2b LIFESTYLE

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Infecting the world with good–and doable–ideas

Youth campers lobby for improved national health and wellness

By Angela V. Ignacio, M.D.
Contributor

"ARE YOU contagious?"

That question on Unilab EVP and COO Rex Yap's desk caught my eye as he gave his welcoming address to college students from all over the metro.

The newly licensed, overeager young doctor that I am had already ticked off a dozen communicable diseases in my head before I realized it wasn't referring to chickenpox, HIV or even a simple case of the flu.

It was actually asking if you had it in you to change the world with a single infectious idea.

In college, most of us went through immersion programs and medical dental missions as part of the academic curriculum. In med school, our Community Medicine rotation gave me a sneak peek at how dismal the state of health and sanitation was in certain local areas.

Sick-this children, entire families with itchy scabs and terrible coughing fits, out-of-stock medications, poor hygiene and overcrowding—you name it, we've seen it. As a students, our unsolicited help: Just wonder: What can we do about it?

Fortunately, there are some NGOs that are generous enough to help students turn their great ideas into action. Unilab, in partnership with public relations company Ogilvy and Mather, recently ordained the country's brilliant young minds in a three-day brainstorming event entitled "Ideas to Positive: The Unilab Youth Camp for Change."

The clinic-hosted workshops and talks given by some of the country's top speakers, such as renowned entrepreneur Francis Bong and youth leader Bam Aquino, as well as representatives from the Department of Health. These seminars aimed to teach the students how to harness their marketing ideas toward improving health and wellness in underdeveloped communities.

"Where better to search for sources of innovation than in the creative minds of the youth? Judging by the energy and enthusiasm from the participants, I believe we are headed in the right direction," said Unilab president & CEO Eleuterio Campos Ilaw.

Marketing competition

The event culminated in a social marketing competition, where five teams out of 25 school groups were chosen to present their potentially "infectious" ideas to a formidable panel of judges, composed of reputable personalities from the health and business sectors.

The finalists were Team CLPH from the University of Santo Tomas, Team HOPE from De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, Team PET Society and Team UBAG from UP Diliman, and Team BAGRAS from the University of Asia and the Pacific.

After a grueling, three-debate-style presentation, Team BAGRAS bagged the grand prize: a whopping P100,000 as seed money for their project and a three-day, two-night trip to Boracay.

Entitled "Saklolo! Bukid: Sowing Nutrition, Reaping Hope," the winning idea involved growing hydroponic vegetables in Brgy. San Joaquin, Pasig City in order to combat malnutrition and to provide a source of livelihood for its residents.

Meanwhile, the runners-up, Team CLPH with their Mentemisyong Ayaw sa Droga campaign, and Team UBAG with their Hay Papel Ako project, which uses paper shredded as an alternative source of fuel, were

(MARCHING ON)

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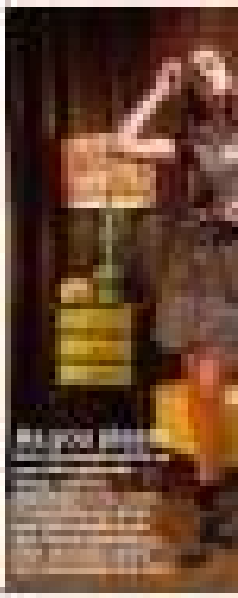
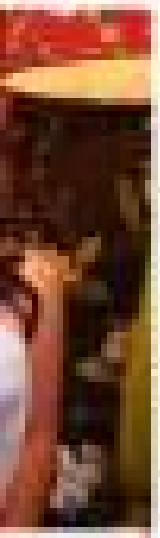
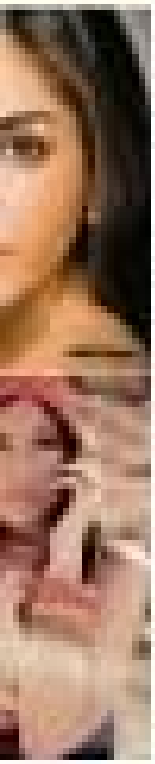
A festive palette

Pretty *pleats*

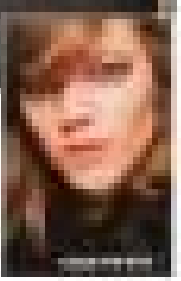


Makeup up front: 23-year-old's cool idea





In too deep



Infecting the world with good-and double-ideas

THE Red Army in full force

THE HS pep squad of San Beda Red

BEDAN governor's be the color of things our beloved Mang Roger

THE cup will become a fan favorite MVP Boom Acaso

THE winning heroes of the game, the San Beda band

Lions roar

The NCAA trophy is back in the lion's den

THE San Beda Alabang HS pep band ready to support

SIYING it all: The San Beda Red Cargo showing some joy

By Luis Carlo San Juan
Photos by JCLuarin

COLLEGIATE basketball season for 2014 ended with a bang—no, with a roar—as the San Beda Red Lions and Red Cubs won their basketball championships.

Even on a weeknight, Bedans filled two-thirds of Araneta Coliseum to witness the Red Cubs wrenching their back-to-back championship and the Red Lions reclaiming the NCAA men's basketball crown.

The euphoria of that day? Pictures do the job better than words could. Go forth Go forth! Fight!

THE stats says it all.

THE Red Lions with the NCAA Season trophy

The secret is out: the "doctor" is in

Dr.Jart+

2b LIFESTYLE

Our parents back then

By Megan M. Manzano
Ateneo de Manila University

The funny thing with deadlines is how they are able to kill you (or put you to sleep) before you even get to meet them.

A funnier thing with deadlines is how they get you working so tense and serious that it is your parents who end up looking like curious little kids peeking over your shoulder to see attempts to figure out what you're doing.

An instance that got me thinking was when I had to pitstop with my mom to be more quiet as I wrestled my way through a 16-page paper while she proceeded to find things in my room to play with and ask about.

The funniest thing with deadlines for me so far? It involved listening to the little things my parents and my friends' parents have done way before the idea of parenthood, to them, even existed.

I'm talking about a time before they had MTV or Facebook to spend all of their free time on; a time when the Beatles weren't considered cold science but revolutionary, hip and now, and (deep breath), a time when they themselves were teenagers with braces and high school crushes.

In an attempt to fill the generation gap between ourselves and our folks, I present to my generation, and as dedication to the generations that colored us, the sneaky little things that we call our parents. (Names have been withheld for the safety of the sons and daughters as well as their own.)

Oh, the sneaky things our parents did when they were teenagers!

Put the gas back

A friend's dad found out a little while back how his father, when he was teenager, had the responsibility of paying for the gas whenever he brought his car out. In an attempt to get a cheaper full tank, he got a hose, opened the gas hatch of his father's car, inserted the hose into the gas tank and proceeded to enjoy the gas enough for it to go up the hose.

Once he got the hose full with gas, he'd then feel free to run his car (he did this until his gas tank was slightly full while leaving the other driver to empty). When he finally closed the gas hatch, and reveled in his ingenuity, he heard a low voice that said, "Oh, are you finished? Be sure to put the gas back in my car" Turns out his father was at the balcony all this time watching him.

Raf's price tag

A guy I knew way back in high school freshman year also told me about how his mother was given money to buy a certain brand of men's shoes in the shopping mall. She got the cheapest brand she could find and attached to it the price tag of a well-appointed one (thus obviously cost way more), shamed it in the sun and got what she called her "service charge."

In the dorm

Another story I heard was of a mother who was staying in a dormitory in college and happened to be roommates with the most studious girl. Her mother would sleep all day and wait for her roommate to get back from the study hall. Once she was sure that her roommate was asleep, she would take a look at her notes and all the reviewers the girl had made and study it.

One time, when her roommate woke up and saw her, she acted as if she was looking for her missing "important paper" in the pile on top of her roommate's desk while exclaiming, "Hey, I was absolutely necessary that she find it because it was due the following morning. Her roommate, completely unaware of what was really happening, got up and helped her look for the non-existent paper (much to the mother's horror and guilt).

Sneak out

My other friend spoke of her dad who used to sneak the car out when he was 15 years old, with only a student license. He would have joyrides with friends until one such night that he got really wounded and tried to drive home. He crashed his mom's car, but since he only smack it out, he couldn't tell her and told his father instead, who helped him to the cover up while he got the car fixed.

Exhibit E

Lastly, I reveal my mother's own sneaky moments who, to this day, seems to be a teenager to me and my siblings. One night when my sister and I went to our room, our dad came in looking for our mom. We told him how she's probably just playing and hiding from him. After 20 minutes, our dad comes in, looking worried and says how he still hasn't found her.

We both got up and with my brother, had our own search party that lasted over 30 minutes for our missing mom. And before we got too worried, our mom in pyjamas emerges from the walk-in closet, in stitches that she could hardly speak.

She told us how she couldn't believe it took us so long to find her so she decided to just come out. Turns out she hid in a cleanly small closet for hugs that we didn't think of looking in because of its size.

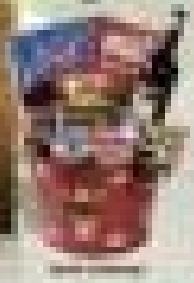
Given all these, I think it's somewhat significant for us teenagers to find out more about our parents' lives when they were teenagers. That might be a better idea than being absorbed in the lives of those we watch on TV or follow in Twitter.

It would be nice to see how our parents aren't just stoic upholsters of the house law and curfew, but folks who were once teenagers and went through the craziness that we call growing up.

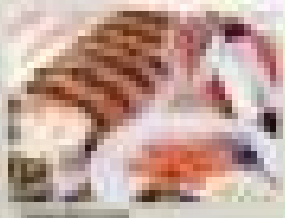
Who knows, in doing so, you could even get them to teach you a few tricks of the sneaky trade.

(FROM TOP) A night out with some friends; room in a UP Diliman dormitory; wacky shot of Mother (extreme left) when she was about 13 years old. (below) My mother's parents and brothers

Anniversary Gifts & Holiday Treats
Celebrating 40 years of Rustan's Supermarket



Special Gourmet Platters



Rustan's

40 CARAT CHRISTMAS

40 Years, 40 Winners, 40 Great Prizes

Teen tracks

Marion Stockinger sets racing records in Europe

By Ricky Herrera
Contributor

19-YEARS-OLD Marion Stockinger has adopted to his new life as a champion racer. This half-Filipino and half-Swiss roadrunner has been living in Europe for the past two years. He shuffles his time between Switzerland and UK to compete.

"I was too busy thinking about what I needed to do on the track," he recalls when he first started. "It was only afterwards that I was able to let all the emotions 'sink' in. So some of the first lap wardrobe, I wanted more, I was hooked!"

Marion shows a lot of courage for a teen to be living independently abroad. He was born in Manila for high school and moved to Europe to finally pursue racing, leaving his family and friends behind. His prestige in competing in one of the most expensive and competitive sports is an achievement in itself.

Eyes on the target

Marion is clearly focused. He is racing for the Abrch Grand Prix team and scored victories: the Asian Karting Champion 2006, Philippine Karting Champion 2007 and the 2008 Formula BMW Pacific Scholarship Champion.

Marion's fight heartedness and sharp wit can spark the most interesting conversations. Especially when it comes to racing, his drive becomes even more apparent. "With every race weekend is a new opportunity to win! As a racing driver, you are always trying to improve and reach new goals," he says, about how racing is an art.

"You should always be hungry for new challenges and stay ahead, as this is a constant test of motor sport. The only thing that should stay the same is the desire to win and I'm sure that this is still burning inside of me," he says.

"For solo tests, you lose some, Marion knows that's sports competitions. "I think the best way is to achieved, edge the presence of the competitors but not to become overwhelmed. You always want to beat the competency and never convince yourself otherwise."

Level-headed, he is prepared to win and lose some battles, but his drive to stay positive is the key to success. "The difference between the good athletes and the great ones is that the great ones make fewer mistakes on the racing track. To do this, you just have to stay positive and always believe in yourself," he says.

He personally penned this belief, having secured his first victory of the 2010 Mistrelle Formula Renault 1.6 Championship. He is the first Filipino racer to win a formula race in Europe.

Family comes first

Apart from winning, Marion admits that his real happiness comes from being with his family. "There's just nothing better," he says.

He regards his father as one of his mentors, who has always been there. "He always kept his faith in me, I can't thank him enough."

Marion credits his mother for teaching him to have faith. "She taught me to pray and ask for guidance in difficult situations. It gives you peace of mind, which is very important...as racing drivers need a clear head when they race."

Marion sees himself progressing to a higher level of Formula cars. Always pushing himself to a higher goal, he says, "In the next few years I would love to be in Formula 1. It's a difficult task but I believe we can make it."

"I WOULD love to be in Formula 1," says Marion.

MARION doing what he does best

Cupcake maker

By Ricky Herrera
Contributor

"CUPCAKES TASTE better with a cup of love with an extra serving of great friends," says Patti Grandidge, the 33-year-old woman behind Sweet Patti Cakes.

"Whether it's their perfectly sized portions, pretty pastels or because there's ability to take you back to a childhood party, cupcakes are tiny works of art that have the ultimate 'sweet treat' appeal," Grandidge says.

Cupcake talk on Twitter or Facebook raves about this girl. She self-proclaimed "Mother of the Internet" has been making bite-to-order cupcakes out of her home for the past few months. In such a short time, she has built a name for herself to be pastry royalty.

Her bestseller is Ooey Gooey Peanut Butter, made of peanut butter cake, studded with chocolate chips and peanut butter frosting. A bite-size pastry so other-heavenly that any realize a dozen cupcakes all to yourself wouldn't be enough.

Sweet roots

Thanks to numerous family reunions, Patti was exposed to delicious cuisines at an early age. "My parents have always been into fine dining and downright delicious food, so my brothers and I got to 'tag along' for dinner reservations instead of getting left with room service," says the mixed-Filipino.

Traveling has exposed her to the best culinary dishes around the world. She spent different parts of her life growing up in England, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Tokyo, Singapore and Los Angeles. She has made Manila her home this year.

Despite working as a model in the past, food has always been her passion. "I developed a love for food," she said. "Some my recipes are based on food, for example I spent my days around the meals... I do my research and find out where to go for the best burger, best pizza, best cheesecake, best sushi, best chili fries."

Baking has always been a passion. "I remember getting into baking when I was in fifth grade. My friends and I would have sleepovers and pre-plan our 'midnight snacks.' We'd bake cakes, cookies and brownies out of the box and gobble them up like there was no tomorrow. Betty Crocker was our best friend!"

In high school, she tried out recipes in college, studying International Business at Pepperdine University in California, she used her roommates would bake "study snacks."

After college, she applied for an internship at Sprinkles, host of applied premier cupcake bakery with loyal celebrity clients. "I learned so much at Sprinkles! I like to think of Sprinkles as the Cupcake Capital of the world," she said.

Sprinkles also taught her valuable lessons about business. The Sprinkles' founder, Candace Nelson, "told a story about how few people believed in her cupcake concept. People were saying that a cupcake only bakery would never work in Beverly Hills. However, she turned a blind eye and went ahead with her gut feeling."

"Candace's story just reconfirmed with me to believe in your dreams and passion no matter what anyone says. If you visualize and practice positive affirmations, the universe will listen and everything else will fall into place. It's the 'what' before the 'how.'"

Sweet passion

After Patti moved back to Manila, she immediately set up plans to put up her own cupcake business.

"I've learned that every difficulty I've encountered helps me prepare properly for the next challenge," she said. "For those starting their own businesses, learn the 5 P's: Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. Take time and design your business plan and all its components."

Her clients includes celebrities Ira Calzado, Anne Curtis and Raymond Gutierrez, other clients: Mikaela Watkins, Sarah Meier, Grace Lieon, Teresa Herrera, Karen Patterson and Isabella Gana.

"I appreciate every single customer who orders a box of cupcakes," she said. "My favorite hours to come are repeat customers who share their orders excitement. When I see parents and relatives about Sweet Patti Cakes, the grin on my face says it all."

"I DEVELOPED a love for food. Many of my recipes are based on food," says Patti.

"I'VE LEARNED that every difficulty I've encountered will help me prepare properly for the next challenge."

Patti Grandidge's love for cupcakes has made her set up a home-based business whose products have attracted celebrity-clients

In Patti's own words

One person you would send a box of Sweet Patti Cakes to:
Oprah Winfrey. How dope would that be!

How do you want customers to feel after they try your cupcakes?
Satisfied... in every sense of the word. The kind of satisfied that you'll still thinking about it the next day, and you're already planning your next fix.

Most unlikely food things do you like?
Goodnight Cafe. Thank You notes, coffee dates, my favorite song playing on the radio, barbecued meats, Sunday brunch, mid-day naps, grocery shopping, homage chats, golden retrievers...

What do you usually look for/check out when you try new restaurants?
I look at the dessert menu! That way I can plan my meal backwards. Making sure to leave room for dessert. I'll dessert isn't going to blow me away, then I just eat less in the beginning.

FACT: I got into baking when she was in fifth grade. "My parents have always been into fine dining and downright delicious food, so my brother and I got to 'tag along' for dinner reservations instead of getting left with room service," says the British-Filipina.

super LIFESTYLE
style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Former hotel waitress transforms obsolete objects into artworks for ad campaigns and Hermes boutiques

Rock star portraits —made from old cassette tapes

DO THE spirits of rock stars still inhabit the forgotten repositories of their music?

Erika Simmons (www.kr1thing.org), an artist and former hotel waitress, thinks so: the sculpts them from the coiled, tarnish reels of their old cassette tapes.

"Listening to [Nine Inch Nails'] 'Things Falling Apart,' Making a masterpiece. Scissors, small blades and tubes of superglue all over the floor," the 26-year-old Atlanta, Georgia, native tweeted last Saturday.

An appropriate soundtrack, especially if one considers the MacGyver-meets-Bluebeard's-

ROCK STAR 14

Graphics Design: Ruben Joshua Cunio

A weekly directory of the country's best establishments

Where to Stop Where to Go

Chefs prepare for 'The Ultimate Asian Showdown'

WITH FOUR months to go, pastry, salad and savoury chefs from the Philippines and all over Asia are busy whipping up recipes and concocting delicious creations for Chefs on Fire, the Philippines' longest running culinary competition.

Chefs on Fire'odo will be held on Feb. 10, 11 and 12, 2011, at the SMX Convention Center.

The Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines since COF as a showcase of premier local talents and a way to develop and recognize the local culinary talents. Christopher Park, vice chair of the COF competitions and judging committee and member of the HRAP board of directors, declares, "The principle aim is to push the boundaries of food and beverage in the country, providing a venue to let our professionals gauge their abilities against each other and prepare them for international events."

The main attractions are the culinary and mixology competitions, both of which have professional and student divisions. With "The Ultimate Asian Showdown" as the theme for COF 2011, the event considers a wider scope and prominence. Humphrey O'Leary III, HRAP president, explains that these are part of COF's reinvention, "so that it becomes the benchmark for all other Philippine culinary competitions.

Each event has its specific guidelines and assessment values related to the final products and their presentation. There are no secondary medals. Should a gastronomic value of each entry by the assessment of the judges through the guidelines given.

Among the culinary schools who have confirmed participation are the Operations of the Philippines University, the St. La Salle College of Hotel (OLS CSB) and the Center for Culinary Arts-Manila, all of which have signed up as Silver Sponsors.

Creep-tacular Halloween at The Intercon

MAKE it a truly memorable Halloween by taking at the InterContinental Manila on Friday, Oct. 31 for the Creep-tacular Halloween Party. Be transported by novel-styled Fred Villanueva's ingenuity as he transforms the Grand Ballroom in to a haunted opera house where all the fun will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Guests will be treated to magic and live fire fashion shows, activity booths, mascot appearances, Tinkerbell gone mad-ness, parlor games and loot bags. For every one's dining pleasure a delectable brown buffet spread will be served. When encouraged to be in their Halloween attire for the best costume contests. There needs be coffee breaks also such as overnight stays at InterContinental Manila and Holiday Inn Clark and 2 nights stay at InterContinental Hong Kong and Windsor in Vietnam. Enjoy all these for only P888 net per person with the use of the pool. Local residents can take advantage of the Halloween Eve Room Package from Oct. 29 to Nov. 2 at the special price of P5,800 net per night for a deluxe room inclusive of complimentary breakfast buffet plus tickets to the Creep-tacular Halloween party for two. Call 793-1000.

Courtyard Inn now Court Meridian Hotel & Suites

THE COURTYARD Inn is now Court Meridian Hotel & Suites, a change that is expected to expand the company's customer base and significantly increase development opportunities. This was going to present our long awaited expansion of a four storey building as a direct result of this name change and the expanded market potential," the BOD said. The rapresents one of the largest hotels and name changes in Subic Bay. Currently, the hotel has 78 well maintained rooms and has a record of industry-leading. It was the first hotel in its category to offer in-room coffee makers, complimentary Filipino, American and Continental breakfasts, key cards for all guest rooms for added security, CCTV, in-room safe and more. It also has 26 specially designed business class and family oriented rooms and a 250-pax capacity function hall.

Madonna Decena at Oxford Suites Makati

MADONNA Decena, a semi finalist on UK's "Britain's Got Talent 2009", is performing at the 8 Lounge, Oxford Suites Makati (Dahlan corner P. Burgos Streets, Bel-Air, Makati City) is 44 Thursdays of November 2010 (4, 11, 18, 25 and 25) shows starts at 7:30 p.m. A talented singer who recently rocks Decena captivated the judges and wowed the audience in her first audition for Britain's Got Talent 2009 when she sang Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You". Known for her strength in ballad and alternative rock, Madonna spells talent in every way a singer should. Her repertoire covers a variety of genres including standards, OPM, jazz, pop, R&B, and even Broadway. Her gate of a voice is one not only admired by Pinoy/Die hardcore fans but received rave reviews by everyone who has heard her powerful and remarkable sound. With international acclaim to her name, Decena is indeed a world-class performer. Catch Decena perform with Pinoy Salvo (keyboardist). For more information, please contact us at 896- 1888.

Newly renovated rooms at New Horizon Hotel

WHY would you stay in a drive bar when New Horizon offers you spacious rooms? Experience New Horizon Hotel's newly renovated rooms. Rates start at P1,888 net inclusive of Asian-Continental breakfast for two. For reservations and reservations, please call (02) 632-3021 or visit www.newhorizonhotel-manila.com. New Horizon Hotel is located at 119 Boni Avenue corner EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

Fantasy + magic at One Tagaytay Place Hotel

TEASE your taste buds and be transported to a land of fantasy and imagination this Halloween. Halloween need not be frightening as it can also be mesmerizing. Visit One Tagaytay Place this Oct. 30 for the long weekend and avail of a deluxe room for only P4,888 net and the delicious Buffet at P1,888 net with breakfast and dinner for two. Enjoy overnight room accommodation, buffet dinner for two, a mention in-spired Halloween party. Bring a kid and he gets a loot bag filled with goodies plus a free meal too. Exciting activities include face painting, film showing and magic show. Rate prices include signature welcome sage for two persons at C'Jos and overnight room accommodation with breakfast in other Genesis managed hotels and resorts. For more information call (02) 889-4111, (GMG) 403-0111, (02) 813-43 15 to 19, (0927) 4 3 4 8 8 7 4 , (0920) 9 4 8 2 9 1 0 , email reservations@onetagaytayplace.com, sales@onetagaytayplace.com

CHAMPAGNE ET CAVIAR AT SOFITEL

SOFITEL Philippine Plaza celebrates French elegance by delighting foodies and bon vivant guests in its Sofitel Legend Bistro—Manila's definitive bistro, Lutèce. Treat to the magnificent life with a perfectly chilled glass of Moët et Chandon, paired with the sublime perfection of Osetra caviar. A most beautiful meal set against a backdrop of the sparkling waters of the Bay. Champagne et caviar is served daily at Lutèce, at P 1,888++, and is best enjoyed while witnessing Sofitel's Manila Mitad. Fridays and Saturdays at 7p.m. for inquiries and reservations, please call (632) 551-3000 ext. 1736 and 1138, or email at fb-reservations@sofitel-philippines.com.

CELEBRATING HOLIDAYS, THE HOTEL LA CORONA WAY

HOLIDAY Season is coming and with different kinds competing for the same market, Hotel La Corona de Cebu distinguishes the hearts of Metropolitan through its distinctive way of celebrating the season. With its strategic location, just across SM City Cebu and being the only one in Southern Tagalog offering nearly 670 rooms and reasonably rates, friends, families and corporate groups will surely find the place exciting. Equipped with astonishing 1,000 square feet and super luxurious suites, family reunions, Christmas parties, small company meetings and the likes will surely find the place a perfect venue for their occasions. For only P 950 per person per hour, fully consumable dinner and beverages and eight (8) uniquely designed party kits rooms, everyone will have the privilege to make unforgettable holiday memories. For inquiries and reservations, more feasible to call Hotel La Corona de Cebu at (063) 316-1111 / (063) 316-3063 or e-mail mgrsales@hotellacoronacebu.com.

Microtel Hotels · Resorts

'LONG WEEKEND' PROMO AT ALTONIA PLAZA

THE 9th C among weekend ahead for the bungay, elections and it's also the perfect time to leave wonderful moments with family and friends. At Altonia Plaza, you may enjoy the long weekend for a very, very special rate of only P3,500 net/night in a spacious one bedroom suite or you may upgrade your reservations to a two bedroom suite for only P5,500net/night. Relax in the comfort of their large suites complete with a living and dining area and a fully functional kitchen. A majority of Altonia Plaza caters to exotic guests. This special promo is available only from Oct 22-25. Make your reservations now. Call Altonia Plaza at 687 1711, loc. 8002-8004. Altonia Plaza is managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts.

LANCASTER HOTEL JUNIOR SUITE PROMO

THE thought of escaping into a cozy hotel stay seems to be up there at top of a lot of people's wish list. After all, who wouldn't want to check in and enjoy a cool temperature controlled environment, luxurious en-suite orthopedically serviced bedding, flat screen TV, state-of-the-art entertainment, ample cable channels, while surrounded by huge soft pillows? And in the morning, sleep in late, then either order a hefty breakfast from room service, or head down to the restaurant for one last bite of the day by the pool, swimming access-ops or just lazing all under the sun. In perfect contrast, go shopping, walk around the park, then head to the hotel for more rest and relaxation. Then, the fantasy turns into reality at the thought of how expensive this little vacation will cost. But there is hope! Get more value when you stay for two or 3 consecutive nights. Lancaster hotel is the city will give you more cents for an unbelievably reasonable rate of P4,500 nett/night. This "Stay for Less" package rate covers overnight accommodation at superior suite from Oct. 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011 and includes complete buffet breakfast with a view from the top, roundtrip airport transfers, free laundry (one pair per guest), local city calls, internet service, unlimited use of fitness set, one hour Internet Business Center facilities, one round of mini wine of Mexico, free bathroom dancing with dance instructor of Mykel Cole, scheduled shuttle service going to Shoppe shopping malls, daily newspaper, bottled water upon arrival, and coffee and tea amenities. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located on Mayo Street, in between shopping city, prime business centers easily from the Subic international airport leaving 4 EDSA. For more information call (632) 637- 3816 loc (632) 637-1888, or log on www.lancasterhotelmanila.com or email reservations@lancasterhotels.com.ph.

PERF Restaurants Burger King's Most Awarded Franchisee

PERF Restaurants Inc, the Philippine operator of Burger King® restaurants, won five major awards in the recently concluded 2010 Burger King Asia Pacific Regional Conference held at the Marina Bay Sands Hotel in Singapore last Aug. 30 to Sept. 2. For the third consecutive year, Burger King Philippines has championed several other Asia Pacific markets to claim the Highest Growth in Same Restaurant Sales. They also bag the pack in Highest Growth in Same Restaurant Transaction Sales.

The new Burger Shots product line also garnered an award for being the New Product Introduction for 2010. "Burger Shots performance well because it addressed the need of our consumers who are looking to indulge themselves with flame-grilled beef goodness at a cost an premium price," said Ms. Jacqueline Go-Tiaoqui, managing director, PERF Restaurants Inc. Receiving our awards are four to Operations Excellence and three to Wood Safety.

"The awards are really just a testament to our continued dedication to serve world-class quality burgers to our Superfans here in Manila," said Alberto Lim, chairman of the board, PERF Restaurants Inc. "We look forward to opening more restaurants in the coming years."

Christmas Party Packages For A Cause

BOOK your Christmas parties at Fun Pacific Manila and celebrate the most awaited holiday of the year with a cause. For every party booked with a minimum of 150 persons, the hotel will donate P1,000 worth of seedlings to Haribon Foundation for a tree planting project. With packages valid until Dec. 31, party in style over sumptuous buffet selections with one round of drinks, party favors like complimentary stage backdrop, audio-visual equipment, mobile sound system with fog machine, gift certificates for an overnight stay in a Deluxe room with breakfast for two, pre-dinner cocktails at the Pacific Lounge and many more. Package starts at PHP 80,000 net. Terms and conditions apply. For reservations, call Meetings & Events at 315 2288.

Eastwood Café's Chef's Recommendations for October

CREAM of mushroom

ARE YOU craving for the finest and most perfectly culinary masterpieces to drool over? If so, the Eastwood Café's Chef's Recommendations is the treat for you. This October, eastwood Café's own chefs present a collection of their delicacies of choice for your tasting verdict. Start your three-course gastronomic escapade with either the cream of mushroom soup with buttter, shiitake and oyster mushrooms puree served with a mushroom and cream sauce or the Caesar's salad roll with crisp fresh romaine lettuce and ham sticks rolled in rice paper and tossed in sesame soy-ponzu vinaigrette. As the starter whets your appetite, the oriental beef stew entrée makes its way to indulge your taste buds ever more. This dish in the Eastwood Richmond's take on the classic Korean beef stew with oriental beef stew served with sauteed red cabbage and bean sprouts. And finally, cobble on a sweet-tooth's dream of white chocolate dulce de leche, a caramelized white chocolate mousse infused in goat's cheese served with warm plum chutney and apple-ice sorbet, make you wish it doesn't end at home with coffee or tea. The Chef's Recommendations is served daily, from 11a.m. to 11p.m. Eastwood Café is inside Eastwood Richmonde Hotel beside the Eastwood Mall. Access to the hotel can be made at the second level. For inquiries or reservations, please call 910-2007.

Philippine Hotels Directory

MY HOTEL

Museum Cafe

Dencio's Original La Paz Batchoy

Tony Roma's

Cafe Ilah

Chowking

Greenwich

Chicken Charlie

Pancake House

Jollibee

Max's Restaurant

Kenny Rogers Roasters

Yellow Cab Pizza Co.

Tim Ho Wan

Gerry's Grill

Tapa King

Shakey's Pizza

Figaro Coffee

Bo's Coffee

Pepper Lunch

Sbarro

Mister Donut

Red Ribbon

Goldilocks

Conti's

Wendy's

Subway

Starbucks Coffee

Seattle's Best Coffee

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Figaro Coffee

Bo's Coffee

Pepper Lunch

Sbarro

Mister Donut

Red Ribbon

Goldilocks

Conti's

Wendy's

Subway

Starbucks Coffee

Seattle's Best Coffee

Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf

Instagram

This social network prefers pixels over characters

By Tobi Yang
Contributor

What would happen if Twitter, Foursquare and Hipstamatic got drunk and bumped uglies together? They'd create a baby called Instagram, that's what.

Instagram is the latest social sharing app to hit the slightly overcrowded scene. The creators of the program, Stanford alums Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger were inspired heavily by the instantaneous nature of Polaroids and the lost art of sending postcards. This, plus their combined experience of working for Twitter, Google & Meebo allowed them to create a platform that allows users to share their snapshots easily.

INSTAGRAM is the latest photo-sharing app on the social network scene.

While photo-sharing programs are nothing new, it is the user interface that will ultimately determine ranging powers, and Instagram's interface is simple but beautiful. The free app shows your feed, a tab for popular photos, a share button, news (similar to Facebook's notifications), and your profile. Sharing a photo is easy—you either choose to take a photo or select from your camera roll. There are eleven iconography-type filters that add a little retro to your photo. Once you've applied a filter, you can add a short caption, tag the location where the photo was taken and toggle cross-posting across other popular platforms like Twitter, Flickr, Facebook, Tumblr and Foursquare.

Instagram's ridiculous simplicity is both a relief and a challenge. You don't need words to express yourself here, but you do need a picture with a story. You accumulate followers based on the strength of your photos. The more "likes" your photo gets your you in the popular feed, where more users can see your Instagrams and follow you based on what they see. This is not to say that only an expert photographer will flourish here. Instagram is firm in its goal that anyone can share great photos, amateur or otherwise.

The sharing aspect here is different as well. Unlike Twitter which can be used as an evil tool for too much self-promotion, Instagram has inadvertently become a real cross-cultural bridge with users from different countries sharing you glimpses of everyday sights in their respective cities. You'll rarely see "what I'm wearing now" self-portraits in feeds, but you will occasionally get to see a Japanese artist's mobile exhibit and shadows on walls, puffins in Iceland, graffiti in Sao Paulo and random architecture in New York.

INSTAGRAM combines love for Polaroids and the lost art of postcards.

Instagram is initially available for the iPhone/iPod Touch, but the developers are working on making the free service available to other mobile devices.

Download Instagram for free on the AppStore

Enjoy Great Mornings with Jollibee Breakfast Joys!

There's nothing like waking up to a hot and deliciously prepared breakfast to start the day great. After all, a hearty breakfast not only fills you with the energy needed to start the morning right, but also brings out a positive vibe and an infectious enthusiasm that carries throughout the rest of the day.

But more often than not, you tend to leave out the most important meal of the day due to the morning rush from home to work. With Jollibee Breakfast Joys, you can have deliciously filling breakfast fare anytime.

Jollibee Breakfast Joys offers a variety of satisfying and mouth-watering breakfast choices ranging from rice meals to pancakes. Those who want a traditional Pinoy morning can choose among Longganisa, Beef Tapa, Crispy Bangus, Hotdog, Breakfast Steak and Corned Beef. These favorite breakfast meals come with garlic rice, fried egg, and a choice of coffee, hot chocolate, or a regular cold drink. Meanwhile, those who are looking for an alternative yet equally filling breakfast treat may go for the 2-pc. Pancakes with butter and maple syrup. Enjoy it solo or value meal complete with a regular drink of your choice. Starting up the breakfast appetite on the go won't be a problem as well with the Jollibee Sausage & Egg Pandesal, made more delicious at the same affordable price of P35 solo and P45 for the value meal complete with a regular drink. The Sausage and Egg Pandesal meal comes with a warm savory sausage patty and creamy mayo dressing to go with the scrambled egg and soft, warm pandesal.

With Jollibee's breakfast offerings, everyone can experience great mornings instantly. So take your fill of the Jollibee Breakfast Joys to bring out a wider smile to your morning greeting, break out in a hearty laughter or complete your daily tasks with more zest!

Drop by your nearest Jollibee store and jumpstart your day with the Jollibee Breakfast Joys, available daily until 11 am for dine-in, take-out, drive-thru, or through the 8-7000 Jollibee Express Delivery Service or online delivery at www.jollibeedelivery.com.

Rock star portraits —made from old cassette tapes

From page E1

of the-box inspiration and for next big idea.

How long does it take you to create a single tape portrait?

It used to take me four or five days, but now that I make bigger, more intricate pieces, it takes weeks. Bob Marley took three weeks. It's mostly waiting for glue to dry.

You have to be very patient. I use different techniques depending on what textures I want in the final product, but I always start with a sketch. I then construct the base layer and cut out the silhouette. The last step is adding the 3D textures to the back.

Tape must be such a messy material to work with.

That's why it's easier to start over than repair damage. The piece is much more like a sculpture than a drawing—and always fragile. I've certainly ruined a few pieces. There's a whole cemetery of dead canvases in the corner of my room!

So you have a strong affinity with those musical legends?

To be honest, I am not a very musical person at all. I can barely keep a beat! But I choose to portray musicians because there is something magical about the spirit of music. Songs make me recall all kinds of details about places and events—it's like you're reliving the past. That's the essence of what I try to capture. It's strange that something so pop can be so personal at the same time.

What kind of music do you play while making your pieces?

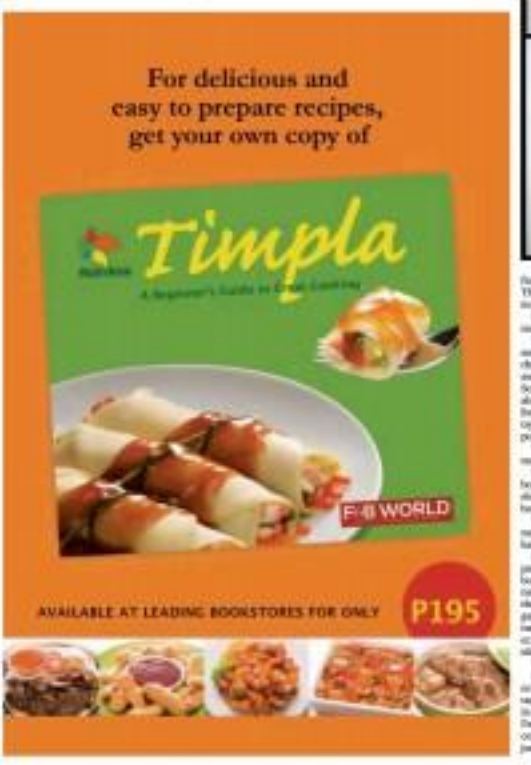
I usually listen to talk radio or audio books while I work. I enjoy classical music, electronica, and industrial noises. Anything beautiful and unexpected!

Your other artworks rely heavily on documents of discarded memorials. You must have received some very weird things.

I like carving up and rearranging the pieces of everyday items—cassettes, old books, even credit cards. Once, a guy donated some dirty, grass-stained baseballs that had been played in major league games. I deconstructed one of them and turned it into a portrait of his favorite player. I love projects like that, when I have no idea what the outcome will be.

What are you currently working on?

I'm completing a new series of 12 canvases for Hermes, some of my original cassette tape and film pieces are already on display in their Boston and east coast stores. But I'm really excited to start a new series based on mythology—not contemporary work, just for fun.



super LIFESTYLE

Love letters to discontinued products

Hello, McDonald's Twister Fries. Welcome, we're glad you're back. But where are your friends? This week, Super writes love letters to things and places we miss. And we asked other people to join the fun too

Dear Polly Pocket,

You've changed, sizzz.

What happened? Why did you grow? Did kids choke on you?

I remember how I felt you were—I could hide you and your friends in my clutter-like fist. And you were so small you, condition in a pencil case—the case someone pencil case ev so cannot be modified. The pencil case was a dollhouse, tha crying and loud, with tiny little voices. They smiled nervously in read every day teacher memorize. She medicated in.

Years later, when I was an adult I'm from teachers who graduate good wonderful things. I decided to look for you and more dollhouse sheds myself and again. Imagine my check where, not only could I see Ken and you, I could see little bead grown. You are now so big that I can't even hide you

In my clutter-adult fist.

I am sad, Polly. I am really sad.

And my heart breaks for the poor little girls who never get to know how cute and tiny you are even more. No wonder they spend more time thinking about Asian Mafias.

Love,
Ryan Pastor

Dear Fiesta Carnival,

I thought you loved me.

We used to have great fun together. The ball pool, the carousel, the waffle dogs, the circus candy. You taught me the art of avoiding Scary Rides and Just Eating Excellent Junk Food.

Once, when my grandpa and I made the mistake of riding the ferris wheel and I started crying and hollering because I was terrified, you stopped the ride and let my trembling little feet land gently on solid ground.

I thought what we had was special. So why did you dump me?

If I decide to pull an Angelina and start a really big family where will I take my kids? How can I teach them the art of avoiding Scary Rides and Just Eating Excellent Junk Food?

I miss you, Fiesta Carnival. There's a hole in my heart where you used to be.

Love,
Ryan Pastor

LOVE LETTERS 11

GARFIELD

A. UPPH

PUGAD BARON

DICK TRACY

LOVE & NUTS

JAMES BOND

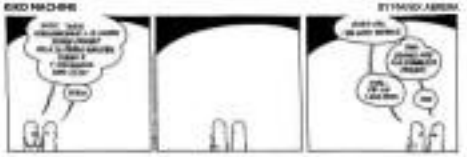
DRINK COMEDY

BABY BLUES

TULDOK

BEH

BIKO MACHINE



SHERWIN'S LAGOON

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) In the month ahead, you'll be more focused on shared projects and things you undertake with others. You could end up more social.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Today the sun moves opposite your regular Sagittarius zone. You expect a welcome treat you do it gets all your talent to who you need most ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) In the next month, you have a strong desire to get better organized at work and at home. Once you have this urge, use it. Set the agenda to be a busy cycle.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You have a wonderful month ahead. Your romance, variation, flair and attitude will make you irresistible. Delightful playful activities with children.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Now your attention turns to home, family and domestic matters, probably for the next four weeks. You're also working closely with a partner.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) The tempo of your days will accelerate in the month ahead. Get used to this. Your mind stays active, conversations and communal meeting will expand opportunities.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Communications erupts about finances in the next month. Do what you can. Family ties deserve more time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Some time spent on your ego is also lifestyle and image matters. The next few weeks are a favourable time.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get in control the coming. Increase your social time ahead to pick your new year. Get time to socialize, attitude is allowed to confirm more. How do you want your new year to be different from this year?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Next session month expect two private, close and unpredictable. Opening rooms with delight you. You want to communicate often and be the centre of it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) For the next six weeks, the sun is in the top of your chart shining down on you like a spotlight. This is very obvious, especially towards mid-Dec, when you move into your first solar cycle!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) In the month ahead, pick your opportunities to travel and explore afterwards. You want to invest in your horizons. Romance intensifies.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs visit www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

7	9	5	6	3	8	1	2	4
1	3	6	4	2	9	5	7	8
8	4	2	7	1	5	6	9	3
5	6	9	8	4	2	3	1	7
3	8	7	1	9	6	4	5	2
4	2	1	3	5	7	9	8	6
6	5	3	9	8	1	7	4	9
9	7	8	2	6	4	2	3	5
2	1	4	5	7	3	8	6	1

Conceptis Sudoku By Nikoli Grand

	3				8			
6					1	4		
			4			1	7	
		7					1	9
4	2				7			
	5	2			6			
		8	5					3
			2				4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Love letters to discontinued products

From page F1

Dear Eskimo Roll,

I used to order Coney Island's bubble gum flavored ice cream all the time until I met you. After that, sorry, bubble gum, it was Eskimo Roll all the time.

You were an incredible ice cream sandwich. Two big chunky cookies with a thick ice cream middle rolled in nuts. Just thinking about you makes my mouth water.

When Coney Island closed, my heart broke. But I found a small bakery along Bonifacio Street that still sold you. Eskimo Roll. I don't know how they did it but I love them back. I used to buy a lot of you and stuff you in my freezer.

But the bakery ran out of Eskimo Rolls. And my heart broke again.

Someone told me you're back at Gandy's Dessert and while I haven't tasted the new version of you yet, I've seen pictures. You still wrinkle-ing—where are your walls?

Love,
Pam Pastor

Dear Selecta Mickey Mouse Ice Cream Sandwich,

It was so hard to say you in the same way when I didn't have an allowance. Still, I managed.

I had to borrow you and ice dish cream.

Creamy vanilla ice cream trapped between two soft dark brownish wooden mouse-shaped cookies—you were my definition of happiness. And just like that, you disappeared.

How could you have abandoned me? I've searched for you all over the world but I haven't been able to find you.

I want you back. You don't even have to be shaped like Mickey Mouse. You can be shaped like Mickey Dyess and I'd still want you.

Love,
Pam Pastor

Dear 'Chickirys' gods,

Please use your omnipotence and lift the grocers shelves with Chick-a-boom and Chickirita because I need those reportedly cancerous temporary tattoos, black-looking things that you ice cream cone out so they can pop and jump, and those sticky bears it's not ice cream. If they were bears because they eat bubbles! Bar Mallos then always got me in trouble because I liked throwing them at the walls, which would, of course, end up dirty and sticky.

Yours, in the name of junk food,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Dear Magnolia Dips,

Where did you go? Did you decide to just pack up and leave?

Cheese, onion, garlic—I couldn't pick a favorite, you were all so good. Some days have tried to take your place but they just don't have your cute mannerisms.

My chips are not the same without you.
Love,
Pam Pastor

Dear Big Bang sa Bisikleta,

Come back from the grave because I am finally old, big, and tall enough for your giant child! I also miss you haunted house ride. I'm sure I won't get our potato or breaded cat anymore but I promise to give mecha-ba scares—that's how much I miss—and love—you! Can you make it by Christmas?

Love,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Dear Nang,

I miss your trippy beats and wacktyvery and revolutionary music videos. Sincere and illegal, you used to return to the Philippines and do music with Kadha again. I'm pretty sure that the nobody will appreciate you even more now.

Forever a fan,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Now now, Brown Cow?

You were more of your other treat. When you first introduced you to me that night, I was sure at first, because you looked so delicious I wanted for my taste. But that one glass of milk I shared with you changed everything, and we' d been inseparable ever since.

Whenever I was during really awful times, when nothing else would, you never failed to calm me down. Every bad time milk many requested from back to school in the afternoon. Chocolate during holiday trips to Baguio, and even the occasional chocolate for whenever I had a craving. All these years you stuck by me through bumper bad times, sleepless nights and midnight crushing sessions. Even when I developed lactose intolerance you stubbornly stayed by my side and helped me get over it little by little. But what's any more was abnormally grateful. She made sure you were there always within reach.

Then, all of a sudden, you disappeared. I looked for you, but you were nowhere to be found. There were others who came after you, and tried to replace you every chance I got, they were nowhere near and readily available. But, in the words of Sinead O'Connor, "nothing compares to you."

Now that I think about it, like how never been the same without you. You were my bedtime buddy, my creamy brown lullaby, my childhood memories in a glass.

Maybe someday, I'd like to introduce you to my swimsuits, and make sweet dreams for them like you had for me, since we're a duo.

Oh, if only Hershey's would bring you back.

Love,
Angelo P. Ignacio

Dear Cinna T,

Last Sangguni you're finally good German "Boys Scenes" Monster's empirical measurement "Trial's Entertainment." I know I won't make it as part of any of the groups Biyernes or Friday but probably Wednesday since I'm average, but I'd still love to see the workmanship on set, and the Sangguni not presentations every Saturday.

Also a fan of "Walang Tulugan with the Masters' Showman,"
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Dear MTV Music ala Vikoria,

Pwede ba, pwede bang bumalik ka na sa pagpalabas ng napakagagandang kanta at napakagagandang music videos?

And can you convince Patrick Sacmento to post to your next video ko?

Forever a fan,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

P.S.

Oh wait, you have a new song out, those heavens! Now just focus on the Patrick Sacmento of my request na lang.

Dear Cacai Velasquez,

Please come back and show everyone in the music industry how it's really done. I miss your blank-Marisaville-inspired songs and bagger tricks. Please come back and don't forget to share all your hair, okay?

Forever a fan,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Anniversary
SALE
on our
4th
ongoing until November 30,2010

calligaris

Designpress Bldg. No. 59 Connecticut St. Northeast Greenhills San Juan Metro Manila Philippines
Tel: 7210161/62 Fax: 7264788 email: info.calligaris@luminalia.com.ph www.calligaris.it

Dear Bar None,

So how have you been?

You've been gone for so long. I wouldn't even bother to say goodbye. I was surprised that you disappeared from the aisle where you used to be. Honestly, when you left, I felt depressed and I had nothing to comfort me. You had always been the one that comforted me in times that I felt miserable. With your departure, I had nothing to turn to.

I have tried other candy bars that seemed to be just like you. Some even gave the impression that they might replace you.

But they never came close. They can't make me feel what you made me feel whenever I savored your rich chocolate deliciousness and crispy cracklyness. You may be dark, but that is how I want my candy bar to be—bitter yet sweet.

You will always have a special place in my tummy.

Pleading for your return,
Cindy Partlet

Dear Nuts,

Please oh please bring back those ugly beasts! It finds because I can now afford to collect them, have the super small ones (Real-cannot-pay-them) and pancit toppers to the insanely and scantly huge ones. I was watching "New York Minute" starring Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen awhile ago and the twins reminded me so much of your scrunchies, which explains why I wrote this letter. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,
Mike Ilkan M. Salinas

Love letters to discontinued products

From page F3

Dear Dani, Diana and Tori (aka Trio) at Jaime or FEU, aka Vienna Vicencio,

I instantly saw you girls perform at that "Mickey Spidey Live" show at that Pasig Convention (or Land you sounded perfect. Just like you did a decade or so ago as the hottest girl group in the country, when I was still a 20-something-year-old college girl who wouldn't eat lunch just so I could buy your CDs. After that TV guesting, you should make another album with Viva Records (again) and three hottie or prison concert. I can't wait to hear your hits "Burning Inside," "He Loves Me" and "Wakefully" by T.L.C.

Forever a fan,

Mike (Mad M. Editor)

P.S.

Ian, I recognize recent photos of you girls from your Facebook account and I know you'd understand (assume) in friends, so nga?

Dear Magnolia Bonus,

When I was a kid we used to eat dinner as fast as we could because that meant we would get to enjoy your ice cream treats dessert.

You were the best around Christmas time—when they turned your outside into a giant playground. I used to have so much fun there.

I wish you'd come back. I miss for too old to run around in giant Oasis de Goles but I'm not too old for ice cream. I'd love a Choco Choco Treats and maybe an Ermie and Bert.

Love,

Jill Lopez

Dear Putty Cone,

I miss your chocolate-covered strawberry marshmallow top, and super sweet-white marshmallow-filled cone-ish-ness much. Please ask the Goya Fun Factory to allow you to come back. You were such a huge part of my grade school and high school days, and were so worth the 75 bill I ended pay every time I went to KC to have a taste of heaven on my mouth. I miss you, Putty Cone. Won't you come back and make me happy again?

Love,

Agee Aragon

Dear Chocolait,

When I was a little girl, I would beg my mom to take me grocery shopping with her.

The grocery store is a magical place for a child. But the highlight of every grocery trip is by the fridge section where I would look up-to-my- father and with my perfected pre-tantrum quivering skill would finally ask for Chocolait. It was my reward for pushing the cart around the store.

I would grab the cold bottle and shake it all the way to the checkout line. By the time the mom-to-be cashier took out a box of tissues, I would be sporting a chocolate moustache and maybe a drip or two of chocolate on the front of my dress. But who cared? Not me.

Five loads my childhood fall with chocolaty goodness that I cannot replicate at an adult either. Your recipe is an other mountain climber. Never ever will that Chocolait in the grocery stores...not in bottles but in handy-take packs. The taste is not the same, sobrang bawas. I remember you, Chocolait. Thanks for the memories.

Love,

Monchu Duarez

Dear Manong Kuba Bayan,

It's almost Halloween and it's around this time of the year that I really miss you.

I used to run home from the cemetery (and whisper a spark apology to all my fellow kid classmates) because I had to watch your Halloween special.

I thought that Jim Carrey was cool back then, walking around those cemeteries in the dark, with seemingly no fear. And the ghosts—I knew they weren't real and knew just which one had an abundance of powder on their faces—but they still scared the crap out of me.

Then Nene Pedi's special was also scary thing I looked forward to—there was something about people who were killed by sticks and whose hands were blown off by firecrabs that kept me glued to my TV, never mind that I could barely look at the screen because of all the blood. All those revenge-o-mom scenes made me paranoid—as a result, I have always hated Nine "Nine's five" prepared-at-midnight-by-moms—along-with-dog-bulbols and-salty fireworks.

It is only now that I realized what a big role you played in my life. You taught me fear. Magandang Gabi Bayan, long before Who Cares did.

Love,

Pam Pastor

Dear Mighty Kid,

Where have you gone? And why did you take all those cool sneakers with you?

The were my hero, Mighty Kid. And you were the hero of all the other kids who rocked at lying their shoelaces. You and your Velcro straps made our lives so much easier.

I'm sorry I neglected you. I'm sorry I abandoned you for girly Keds and pretty Converse.

I've been wanting to rekindle our love but I couldn't find you anywhere. I don't care that I'm old enough to have a dozen kids—I would still totally wear your sneakers.

Calling?

Love,

Pam Pastor

Dear Flavor of the Month,

Flavor of the Month, I've missed you ever since you covertly vacated out of my life. Do you remember that wonderful summer in the islands, when you were known as Pineapple Rain Crunch? People think you're just an imaginary friend we-my-bros-I invented one. They always request, "Where did they release that? I've don't remember that." Yet I remember it clearly. Our summer thing wouldn't last, no? I'd buy whole gallons of your rare kissed self, blissfully savoring your fleeting love. "Real summer ended, and you disappeared, but come back as something else. Though your Pineapple Rain days were the best, you were still sweet and toe-tapping. Until one day, you never returned. The morning looking forward to your hooks-of-unhealthy became barren and hollow. You weren't a hit all the time, but I celebrated your quirky short-changing identity. The sun had gone from my horizon. If ate out there, somewhere, please know that I miss you. No one can replace your inventiveness. No one can match your daring. Please come back.

Love,

Jeri Sagnes

Dear Parker Lewis,

I MISS YOU.

I remember when you would air on TV's 5 and I would rush home right after Sunday night Mass just to watch your show.

It's because of you that I started to like guys with blonde hair.

It's because of you that I always had to make sure that I had a watch on my wrist.

It's because of you that I was able to think that such days in school could be actually fun.

Most of all, it's because of you I've learned the principle—"Either you work for the system or the system works for you."

These days, I like watching Cosmo Girl, but you Parker Lewis, made school so much fun and exciting—without the drama!

I hope one day we'll bump into each other. But looking back and watching your reruns online always puts a smile on my face.

Sincerely,

Char Militar

Dear Nelsa Hilo,

Do you remember that rare perfect day when my Titos took me and my brother to Loreto Park where we spent the afternoon riding bikes and chasing butterflies? They packed a scrumptious lunch which included my bottle of Nelsa Hilo. It was the perfect touch for a warm summer afternoon. My brother and I were fought over who got to drink from the bottle. FYI, I won.

Ahhhh, we are such friends. You reached the Manila Hilo bottle and filled it with drive-ingredient to be placed in the fridge. So on-any-time I opened the fridge, I would see that familiar bottle and remember that day. Pretty soon, our fridge was full of Manila Hilo bottles! We couldn't help it. It was so refreshing and I never cared just the right beverage for sunny days.

Even now my eyes would light up whenever I see the label "Manila Hilo" but Dino where I get close enough I'll make it's not you I will be waiting for your return. The sweet sunrise taste from my childhood that I've missed.

Love,

Monchu Duarez

Dear Mr. Gas,

For years, every time your age-old nemesis, Ronald, mischievous heroine Hiss-like-a zombie that refuses to die, I always count with bated breath for an announcement coming from your upside-cheated face that you would also bring back citrus-cal Mom, Ion.

It's been ages since I bit into a chocolate square deep fried potato, but I remember how sensational it tasted, even better than the highly salary spiced spuds that have gone viral now. There was mention of some special bonbons soaking in those fries and I always kind myself by pumping in any potato code shortcut into cross-curcumbone thinking that it would be unique for those short-lived, but sadly not to last, the same, and it doesn't ever come close to that salty, crunchy goodness that did

wave to bade the bank drops.

Why haven't you wiggled your positioning orange ball and made it happen yet? You're normally very competitive, refusing to let your curly haired apparent get the better of you and I'm surprised how cool you are over the burden of people raving about Sweet Fries. Where's your fighting spirit, man? I hate, insect.

If you're threatening, you still have till the end of this year to make this one girl's dream come true. Please, Mr. Gas. Bring back the cross-cut fries. I promise I'll be good. Or better yet, I promise to eat only that fry's snacks. Or two, depending on how long you'll decide to bring it back.

Raging and smoking,

Dale

Dear Bun on the Run,

As a child of the 80's you were one of my gustatory pillars. I was elated when you came back a couple of years ago but this guy was cut to half when I learned that despite the return of the famed cheeseburger, your chronicles was left shy. I was sad. I felt like I was the case- but to take my beg in my process.

I had many food memories eating a whole chompacca in my younger days. A whole pizza was the-duck reward for being a "good boy" at home and getting relatively good grades in school. And staying-quiet at the dentist. Your pizza was the exception to the- rule. As a child that banned sweets, this was the only salty thing I'd really eat (apart from your burger, of course).

Think about it: No pizza joint has ever modestly replicated the-emergency. Your bitachas come. I know what you're thinking—your outlets are probably ill equipped to facilitate a pizza oven. Let me give you a bit of marketing advice. You can do a soft launch by preparing and cooking the pizza in your commissary strictly for deliveries only. The initial setback of having the-emergency-is limited even per day adds to the demand. You have nothing to lose but our health.

Bonbon is national pizza month. This may probably be just a big coincidence but it is all the more reason to make my wish come true.

Sincerely,

Jayana Fernandez

Dear Ivory Shampoo,

I don't know how you did it, but ever since my Puberty was supposed to be an awkward stage, but it all changed when I met you. All those was that you and my hair had drastically changed, it was defying gravity.

During those times I'd thrill plain and unattractive, you gave my hair (and my ego) the extra boost it so badly needed. You actually made me feel pretty. Plus, I smelled nice and clean, even after hours of playing pointing with the neighborhood kids. What, son of gravity! Because boys didn't even stand a chance, we were simply unstoppable, a force of nature.

My skinny hair and my ivory shampoo, together, a perfect harmony. Until my hair started falling out.

Kita pala dahil nilabhan ako ng dishwashing detergent.

Why haven't you wiggled your positioning orange ball and made it happen yet? You're normally very competitive, refusing to let your curly haired apparent get the better of you and I'm surprised how cool you are over the burden of people raving about Sweet Fries. Where's your fighting spirit, man? I hate, insect.

If you're threatening, you still have till the end of this year to make this one girl's dream come true. Please, Mr. Gas. Bring back the cross-cut fries. I promise I'll be good. Or better yet, I promise to eat only that fry's snacks. Or two, depending on how long you'll decide to bring it back.

Raging and smoking,

Dale

Dear Nicholas Yuvjank Burger,

As a limited time promo, you were a paler child case of "come too quickly," in my opinion. You could be had in two ways—as a sandwich or as rice meal. Your patty was the typical McDonald's beef patty but as a sandwich, they slathered you with a thick, scary-colored ketchup sauce and mayonnaise that oozed out of your buns with every bite, inevitably getting people's fingers sticky. Inevitably, your rice meal was more popular. Arguably, the sauce...and rice, but I've always been a sandwich person. And as I hear that you've gone back to your hometown, Japan, where you raise three to a pork patty meanwhile. The least you could do is give back those saucy mac and fries, preferably at the same time as your school, Twisted Fries.

Love,

Abi ter Ch

Dear Elaine White,

While other people gravitate to-warm dark chocolates, I'm all ways been more partial to creamy white chocolate. Back when I was young, there was really only you on the market, with the exception of the three-can-as-a-unicorn, white Toblerones. Let's face it, how much of white chocolate can get too decorative large amounts. Sad younger around the with your fascination for these animal, I mean, body, and lots of chopped almond literally scattered throughout yourself. Nowadays though, you're the one with-which-status, and just Googling up a picture of you look quite come-to-a. While are you coming back?

Love,

Adrian Ty

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Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rita P. Avila

SATURDAY Special

HIRMEN. Raunchy verse offmotion

Helen Mirren is still sexy at 65

LOS ANGELES—At 65, Helen Mirren is effortlessly sexy. She has to. In a recent interview in New York, she walked in dressed simply in black, with zipper accents on her sweater's shoulders, over-open and the silk scrunched. She's one attractive dame.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Later in the evening, at the premiere and after-party of "Red," her movie with Bruce Willis, Helen was a knockout in a red dress, making the uncredit parody young things present fade in the background.

One strong point in the actress' favor is that she hasn't succumbed to the lure of a plastic surgeon and his knife. She's aging gracefully, still able to open her eyes and laugh, and not look like a wax version of her former self.

Helen's sexy appeal translates well on the big screen. In "The Last Station," her fully realized Tolya character seduces Christopher Plummer's Leo Tolstoy by cooking chicken escalope. Many actresses, even much younger ones, would have ended up looking silly and ridiculous clutching. But, Helen, with a seductive glint in her eyes, convincingly got Tolstoy to crow and hop to bed with her.

Sex scene

"In my movie 'Love Ranch,' a film directed by her husband, director Taylor Hackford ('Ray' 'An Officer and a Gentleman'), Helen posed topless for New York magazine. Playing a madam in the first legal brothel in Nevada, she has a nude sex scene with actor Sergio Mecha-Mendieta, who's several decades younger.

In 2006, a five-days shy of her 62nd birthday, Helen made a splash when she wore a fitted dress that showed off her toned body.

In the action-comedy "Red," Helen, who plays a retired CIA agent, moves an old flame (Brian Cox), an ex-KGB spook. The 64-year-old actor carries Helen in his arms in one scene. Asked if she resented about Helen's back being hurt in the scene, Helen smiled, "I did. I kept apologizing, saying, 'Brian, I'm so sorry. I'm really heavy.' Can't a stuntman do it?' He said, 'No. I'll be fine.' But, he's very strong. He's got this big chest."

In a separate interview, Brian offered to tell us "why Helen Mirren is sexy—she is a beautiful, charming woman." He cited other qualities that make her attractive: "Grace, poise and kindness."

HELEN M.S.

Rahlee F. Nepomuceno

Movies in a nutshell

By Nestor U. Torre

WE'VE BEEN going to the movies a lot this month, so here are capsule reviews of recent and current films as viewed by this film-going nut—and WIFE—thereof, in a nutshell, if you will:

'Eat, Pray, Love'

Julia Roberts' new starrer is commendable for its interest in dealing with issues and themes that many other productions would never safely paw up on, for fear of losing viewers. Middle-age angst, post-divorce blues and limbo, spirituality, travel, cuisine, etc.

Double it, Ryan Murphy's movie bridges its form by opting to be something for everybody, thus ends up getting into distances and not anywhere that middle-up-in-traumatic-pictures, but travelogues, just gastronomical trip, hard for the soul and love lost—how to make sense of such a mish and mash?

Our advice: Take each section as it comes, and take away what you can from ends. A bonus: Some character portrayals in this production add great texture and are most neat in their own right.

'Legend of the Guardians'

Initially we hesitated to watch the animated feature, because it is about owls, and we weren't sure if we wanted to spend at least 90 minutes exclusively viewing the adventures of our four-footed friends—and to 10 yet to trust, we got over our apprehensions, and we're glad we did, because the movie is a visual treat.

In addition, it touches on themes related to family tradition and the need to fight for freedom and your rights and space in life—all good topics for young viewers to think about.

We also like the great variety of characters that the movie creators, contrary to our perception, do not clutter each are having and predictable, because they all look alike.

On the drink side, the film's planting gets to be too fantastic and convoluted at times, like the section involving "elixir" with "Feeding" a huge machine emanating powerful but mystifying rays of something or other. But, that perplexing "chapter" passes soon enough, and much of the film remains viewable.

'Red'

This thriller featuring "retired but still extremely dangerous" secret agents (hence the title) is a really fun romp, and you don't have to be on the wrong side of 50 to enjoy it. Indeed, it's so eventful. But, before you know it, the film has ended—and you still want more.

Bruce Willis stars as a retired agent who suddenly realizes that somebody who must be really big and powerful wants him dead. The identity of his nemesis is huge a big secret until just before the end, but Willis isn't about to rest for the big reveal, because he's too busy trying to stay alive. To anticipate things, he has "leverage" a woman he likes (Mary-Louise Parker) and she has an even more twelve-wrinkling time trying to figure out what's what.

Willis is fun enough, but he succeeds to the movie's comedic delights by asking for help from his similarly retired agent-buddies, played by the great, sexy likes of Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich and Helen Mirren.

Some of the film's rappers, gimmicks and close shaves are no fanciful to be believed, but just go with the flow—and you'll be fine.

ADDRESS. Elegantly mix of middle-aged, post-divorce blues and limbo, travel, cuisine and spirituality

'Art 2 Art' wins second CMMA award

"ART 2 ART," the dzRH radio program hosted by Lara Morales, has again topped the Catholic Mass Media Award for Best Educational Radio Program. Pro-duced by the Manila Broadcasting Company, the show brings art and culture closer to listeners by interviewing the country's best artists. "Art 2 Art" is also accessible on the Internet at dzrh.tripod.com.

MACUJA. Hosts picture-winning educational show on dzRH

GOMEZ. Maintain amount of health benefits

'Scarestival'

Nickelodeon invites you to "Scarestival," its carnival of the spooky, on the spooky hours (5 to 9 p.m. at the Music Hall of SM Mall of Asia on Oct. 23. Score a free ticket by purchasing at least P1,000 worth of toys at Toys Kingdom stores.

Enticing Halloween treats at "Scarestival" include the Fun House, the Hall of Illusions, the Super Party Room, the Art Making Experience, a creepy freak show at the Ghastly Gallery, plus games, magic tricks and fun prizes!

'Iron Night'

The Philippines will take part in the global "Iron Night: An Iron 20 Experience," on Oct. 24 at the Iman theaters of SM North Edsa and SM Cebu. The event will give audiences the chance to see more than 20 minutes of 3D footage from Disney's upcoming film, "Iron Legacy."

Super Bowl treat extended

Good news! Super Bowl of Chicken's "100th Anniversary Rollback: P99 Crispy Noodles with Assorted Seafood" is extended until Oct. 31 (good for three to four people).

Also enjoy the chef's other yummy recommendations like Crispy Shrimp with Sweet and Sour Sauce, Lemon Chicken, Yang Chow Fried Rice, Chinese Chorizo Fried Rice and Lechon Macao. Available for dine-in, take-out and delivery (call 737-8888), and catering (call 717-2881).

New shows on ANC

"The Brew" premieres on Thursday, Oct. 21, on ANC. Interviewers of the US talk shows "The View," the ABC program host its hosts—Sheila Trinidad, Trish Manansing and Gang Badoy—discussing different hot issues and personalities and putting colorful sweetmakers on the hot seat.

Every Tuesday at 9:30 p.m., Ginger Conejero hosts "Brew," billed as "a review of all things in the media's pop culture galaxy."

'Wish Ko Lang'

On GMA-7's "Wish Ko Lang" (today 1:45pm "Starfall"), the heroines are on richly and severely underweight Princess Angel, a mother who carries her teenage son on her back all the way to school, and Fatima Janice and her former star, Abig Gina.

'Discovery Saved My Life'

On Oct. 31 at 10 p.m. on the Discovery Channel, a one-hour special, "Discovery Saved My Life," tells the real life stories of ordinary people who rebounded from the brink of death—thanks in part to what they remembered from their favorite shows. "The Discovery Channel programs

MONTAGE

Also on Discovery Channel, "Extreme Forensics" reveals why and how technology has become an important weapon in the modern crime-solver's arsenal. The new program premieres every Friday at 11 p.m.

At Richmonde Hotel

Celebrate the Pokémon holidays by heading at the Richmonde Hotel's Christmas Party Package for lunch or dinner for a minimum of 25 persons, complete with scrumptious appetizers, main course selections, desserts and unlimited iced tea or soda. For the Christmas Party Package and other special offers, call 636-7777 ext. 3915.

Lucy in cornucopias

At her age, Lucy Torres-Gomez is comfortable in her own skin and living life to the fullest—but, she acknowledges that there are certain changes that she needs to deal with, like a slower metabolism. That's why she takes the multivitamin supplement, Immunex, which gives the maximum amount of health benefits that maximizing women need.

It contains two powerful glycoseuticals—Silibrinat and Kanvas—and antioxidants that keep women energized and looking youthful. Lucy also takes Stress-Gee, probiotics, and Omega-3 supplements like seal body and Ultimo Fiber.

'Triad Relaxo'

Fitness at Greenbelt 3 features a jewelry exhibition, "Triad Relaxo," featuring the designs of Kristine Dee, Wilhelmina Ignacio and Pearl Ignacio.

'Buried'

Ryan Reynolds stars in the critically acclaimed thriller, "Buried," as a truck driver and family man who wakes up to realize with a shock that he's been buried in an old coffin. More frightening is the fact that he has no idea at all why he's been buried alive.

Best movie

The Argentinian crime thriller, "El Secreto de Sus Ojos" (The Secret in Their Eyes)" won the coveted "Golden Shell" award at the recently concluded Pelicula Spanish Film Festival at the Greenbelt 3 cinemas. In second place went "Gelds 511" and "Que Se Mueran Los Feos."

Helen Mirren ...

From page G4

"Helen is warm, and she has this raunchy sense of humor," Mary-Louise Parker revealed in another chat. The star of the TV series, "Weeds," plays Bruce's love interest in the movie.

For her part, Helen said of her costars: "There are two brave Willises—the actor-star and the wonderful character actor I've always admired both. It's intimidating, but Bruce was so welcoming and generous. He made all of us feel important. And Mary-Louise and I were like two girlfriends, together—we giggled, laughed and had a great time."

Of John Malkovich, she said, "He is one fantastic man. What doesn't John do? He has a shocking line, does opera and acts—he's extraordinary and clever."

This romp, directed by Robert Schwentke, has both the Queen and God—Morgan Freeman played the Creator in "Bruce Almighty" and "Evan Almighty." "I wasn't all over on the set with Morgan, but when he was around, it was a lot like God visiting the set," Helen quipped. "Morgan is big, authoritative, elegant and powerful."

Attention to detail

Helen told us she modeled her character—a level-headed senior who makes flower arrangements but keeps an Uzi nearby—after Martha Stewart. But, in real life, she's "no role like Martha, I wish I was. But, as I get older, I do try to get neater."

She added: "And" after finishing John Gielgud's version of Shakespeare's "The Tempest," in which the main character is now a woman named Prospera. "I came from 'The Tempest,' which had a complex language. That was a huge amount of work. So, I was ready to relax in 'Red.' It's still hard work, but it was a really fun thing to do."

As to the gender shift of the character, from Prospero to Prospera, in "The Tempest," she explained, "I just saw it as if Shakespeare had written it for a woman. I never saw it as gender-shifting. In my mind, I bet Shakespeare really wanted to write it for a woman."

Laughing, she added: "There aren't nearly enough roles for women in Shakespeare. So, with Prospera, I just stole the role, because I wanted to play it!"

E-mail tempolic_5565@yahoo.com

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Rotterdam	Nov 06, 2010, 04:00 pm	World Trade Center
Richard Poon: The Crooner	Nov 12, 2010, 08:00 pm	PICC Planetary Hall
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IN THIS ISSUE

■ Sharon's talent search comes into its own /H4

SATURDAY Special

What can stars do for an encore?

BARRETTO. No need for major female "dimensions."

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN STARS click in a TV or movie production, they find like they're on top of the world—for, say, the long. After the heady surge of success that comes from headlining a hit subsides, stars have to plot their next career move—which is made even more difficult precisely because they've just come from a big hit.

Why so? Because those hit is a cognitively insecure field of work, where stars are only as good as their last performance—the impressive impact of which quickly ebbs. So, what can stars do for an encore?

After her successful stint as an elegant, stylish, glamorous but super-chic stars on "Magkaribal" comes to its dramatic conclusion, what does Gretchen Barretto have lined up for her fans?

There's talk of a project that has her costarring with Angelica Panganiban—which has thrown some of her followers for a loop, because not too long ago, they were reported to be having a busy catfight over David Bustamante.

Solo starver

But, if Gretchen's fans could have their druthers, they would want to see their screen goddess in a solo starver, with no major female "distractions" around—and her custom top screen hunks like Dingdong, Piolo and John Lloyd, all keen on winning her hand and heart.

For her part, Kris Bernal has upholded her claim of domination and flow, but is definitely not resting on her laurels, and has enrolled a new series, "Korasons," in which she plays a young nervous who lost a Pinoy mother and a Korean chef. Although she can "look" Korean and her character speaks Hokkien, the challenge for Kris is to effectively verify the Korean "echos."

The new series could click with viewers due to its novelty, and she has that "K-Pop" box because mainly in those parts. But, Kris will have her hands full "usurping" the slam, since her costars are newbies Dimples Romana and Steven Silva) who still have to prove their competence and ability to generate viewer empathy and excitement.

Success

What about Andi Eigenmann? She clicked with viewers in her first telenovel, "Sigaw Ben-dila," where she audaciously played a double role, but it's time to follow up on that success, and she's opted to do so with a limited drama anthology series made up of eight separate episodes mugged by different directors.

Variety—and, hopefully, success—is clearly the name of Andi's follow-up game. She's being audacious again, but this second time around, the stakes are higher, because viewers now expect more of her.

Will she live up to those expectations? We caught the new show's first telecast last Oct. 10 and found it an iffy proposition. At first glance, it felt like an "event," because it centered Andi with her real-life brother, Jacky Jose, a reverse screen of no-less repute.

Both actresses were given "meaty" roles to play, but Andi failed to truly shine, due to a

WHAT'S HOT

David Archuleta has something to smile about

By Rito P. Asilo

ARCHULETA. Puts the executive sparkle of his voice to good use.

DAVID ARCHULETA had his first stinging taste in church when he released his self-titled debut recording two years ago. Then, he made the grades—but barely. In fact, his golden plums almost couldn't match the album's chart-busting, arrogance-heavy pop-and-rock confections.

So, we're happy to note that his sophomore effort, the most nominated "The Other Side of Dream," is a more satisfying collection of (mainly) hooks and radio-ready pop melodies. Part in, David is no slouch at singing your rock numbers, but the sound just isn't a song fit for the balm-based vocalist.

Hum-worthy tunes

By consulting 10 of the 12 selections in the album, Archuleta is able to exercise greater emotive control over his material, which puts the crystalline sparkle of his voice to good use. This time around, there are a good number of style-appropriate, hum-worthy (albeit derivative) tunes.

Even catchier than his recent re-do hit, "Something Bout Love," his second album's track, "The Other Side of Dream," is a refreshing hybrid of Jesse Ray's melodies and Katy Perry's infectious grooves. Ditto with "Stomping the Room."

The guitar-driven "Elevator" is a joyride of melodic thrills that shows off the heartthrob's seamless shifts from natural singing to falsetto. Toward the end of "Who I Am," the beautifully intertwining harmonies are as soothing as the xylophone-like interlude in "Look Around."

Then, David experiments with shifting speeds to the spirit-lendy song "Falling Down," and, "Breakeven and Airplanes" will find favor with music buffs who are partial to anthemic hymns.

Positive vibe

The album doesn't deal as much with the gutsy realities of life, and some tracks convey a pep-rally sensibility. In the guitar-backed "Things Are Gonna Get Better," Archuleta sings, "I know life is gonna get better/ Standing here together, we're gonna be fine/ Outta more on." The same positive vibe boosts the soulfully rendered "Good Place." In fact, even when things aren't so rosy ("Complain"), the guy still finds something to smile about.

Archuleta knows that, in a life filled with challenges, it isn't a bad thing to find your own happiness—as he ardently sings in "My Kind of Perfect": "I know she's out there/ Maybe I just let you walk by/ But, I'll keep searching for my kind of perfect/ (And I'll wait for me) sweet surprise."

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Growing up is no picnic for screen moppets

By Bobo Cervantes

TWO OF Hollywood's most famous child stars were Shirley Temple and Margaret O'Brien. Novel studios that wanted their share of the box office pie tried to discover and develop their own young moneymakers: June Haver was pudgy and cute, unlike the doll-like Judy Garland, who never had as much clout and didn't top bill as many movies. So, imagine my shock when she was cast in "Giant"—though her presence was overshadowed by former child stars Elizabeth Taylor and Rod Steiger.

Elders then Gubby —not much talks...never Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland. The latter went on to make

DICAPRIO. Stellar reception that proves the rule.

adult movies, although his was plagued with stress and multiple marriages. Garland was hounded by weight problems, as well as drug and alcohol dependency.

Taylor was one of a few child stars who successfully transitioned to adult roles. In the '40s, Gigi Perreau was considered a promising movie star—but her parents wisely pulled her out of show biz to enable her to lead a normal life.

Nomination

In the '50s, Brando de Wilde merited an Oscar nomination for his portrayal in "Home," in which he stole scenes from a star who included Alan Ladd, Van Heflin and Jack Palance. He grew up to portray eccentric misogynist in films like "Blue Jasmine," but he died young (at age 28). Jimmy McCormack earned an Oscar nomination for "The Bad Seed," where she portrayed an evil girl.

Sadly, it said easy for screen moppets to sustain their popularity when they reach their teenage years. Among child stars, Richard Dreyfuss' screen debut (uncredited) as a drooling zombie in "Valley Of The Dolls" was one of his most memorable. Many of Dreyfuss' films, also received Academy Award nominations before he recently won.

Tatum Ryan, who was not a single-child, Moore and Adams portrayed characters on the threshold of social acceptance to enormous benefit.

One of the cutest child actors was Richard Eyer, who made "It Formally Premiered" from Gary Cooper, Dorothy McGuire and the young Anthony Perkins, and was superbly mischievous under the guidance of director William Wyler.

Many popular screen stars also succeed as mature performers. But, two of them—Leonardo DiCaprio and Drew Barrymore—are stellar exceptions to the rule.

What...

Pero page 4-4

number of distractions, like excessive comedy-ness in the story's plot and her speaking too much dialogue in English or Tagalog to encourage viewer empathy.

And, when it was predictably revealed that Jaclyn was Andi's birth mother, the impact of that "dramatic" revelation was less than intense, because "Know" is all along.

Let's hope that the young actress will fare better on her next TV-drama outings.

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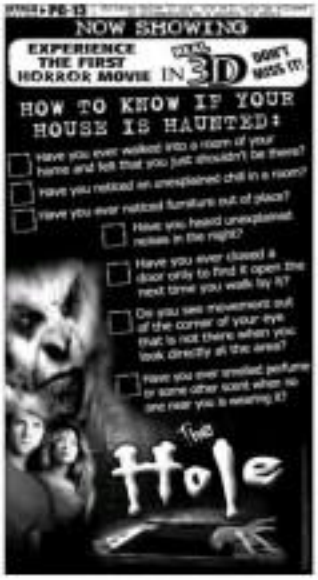
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Sharon's 'Star Factor' comes into its own

By Nestor U. Torre

EVER SINCE we heard that Sharon Cuneta would be hosting a big talent search on TV for a new female singing star, we have huge talks on the show, "Star Factor," on ABS-CBN.

We first tolerated most harshly disappointing, since Sharon herself not at all passionately in the audition phase that I covered, which instead featured her cohosts, Christian Bautista and Erik Santos.

We lamented the auditions of some promising girls, but many of them looked callow and awkward and were thrown some and disturbingly pretentious Vinnie and Lenny one in Manila to be judged and mentored by Sharon and top ABS-CBN executives, led by Claire Ramos-Cuneta.

It was during this second telecast that "Star Factor" came into its own as a strong talent search that could quite possibly surprised in discovering some fantastic singing star—and maybe even two or three other similarly outstanding talents.

What turned the tide for the show after its disappointing first telecast was the emergence of some perspective finalists who both looked and sounded good, and had a relatively unique singing style and charisma—the stuff of which genuine singing stars are made. They were still rare, of course, but the promise was there, driving bright in these dramatic-to-the-tough.

Aspects

Another big boost was provided by Sharon's more relaxed and confident presence as judge and mentor in the proceedings (at long last!). The girls were thrilled to see her so genuinely interested in helping them realize their best and worst aspects, and that "Sharon factor" was what made this particular singing-fit different from many others we've seen on TV.

After the semifinalists performed and were evaluated by the jurors, an unexpected problem presented itself. There were too many good singers for the judges to some up with just 12 best bets, as planned. So, they were "compelled" to raise the number of finalists to 20!

Clearly, the show has done a good job in discovering new talent unknown from all over the country, and what needs to happen in the succeeding weeks is for the talent to succeed in the even more daunting task of honing those talents, so that, at the end of the long process, with Sharon clearly mentoring the finalists all the way, the final winner will not just be a clear standout—but will also do her proud!

CUNETA. Her more-extensive participation as the talent search's mentor/judge and emcee/ was a big boon for the show.

Beyond wealth

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

ONCE UPON a time, the great sage, Sunaka Muni, came upon two young men who were drunk and naked amid the company of beautiful nude women. When the gods saw him coming, they immediately covered themselves and ran home. The two men felt no shame whatsoever.

Then, Sunaka said, "The attraction of riches/worldly success/intelligence. Without control, a rascal who is faintly proud of his riches becomes so proud that, to maintain his predictable body, he is willing to fall into evils without mercy.

Others are blinded by wealth. So, resorting them to poverty is the appropriate counsel for their eyes so they may see things as they are. A poor man realizes the difficulty of his situation. Therefore, his desire to seek this condition is evident.

A poverty-stricken man must undergo austerities, because he doesn't possess anything else. Thus, his false prestige is vanquished. Always in control of food, shelter and clothing, he must necessarily banish others to obtain from the mercy of providence. Undergoing this a good for him, because this purifies and frees him from false ego.

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AM/FM

When good intentions aren't enough

By Ronald G. Mangubat

FOR SEVERAL weeks now, we've been shocking out the AM and FM bands in the hope of finding shows that feature Pinoy talent and culture. Then, one Saturday evening, we finally stumbled upon not just one, but two radio programs—and we were overjoyed.

With identical formats, "Wika, Kultura at Edukasyon" and "Sulyap Kultura" are aired on dzRM (1179 khz) and dzRH (1278 khz), respectively, both hosted by Betty Carnaligan Reino. They're also heard in Europe, the US, the Middle East, South America and the Asia Pacific.

Format

At a time when loud and inane advertorial commentary programs are leveling it over the airwaves, the cultural duotuns have come up with a lot of ways. Interesting is both shows is truly refreshing. After all, how often do you hear the likes of Danilo Santos, the Mystery Singer, Gadi Lloyd, Ruben Tagalog and Armando Ramos singing the immortal tunes/music? Moreover, both programs are also full of trivia about our rich language, national treasures and way of life.

The night we tuned in, "Wika, Kultura at Edukasyon" featured the Cordillera Administrative Region. Geographic topography, population, dialects, etc. On the other hand, "Sulyap Kultura" tackled the culture of the Tausug Moro, the ethnolinguistic tribes in Southern Mindanao, with some historical tidbits and explanations about our Muslim brothers' festivities, rites and rituals.

While we found the information presented commendable and informative, we also felt that something was amiss. The jackhammer-like disjointing style and vocal figures in that they remain just that—void—unless they're bound to something that listeners can relate to. For instance, instead of enumerating the demographics of a certain area, wouldn't it be more interesting to give importance to the food, dances, beliefs and taboos of its people?

But, notwithstanding the best intentions aren't good enough. The shows' lack of insight and analysis about our cultural issues and practices fails to bring out their pertinence. Raises eyebrows like constant and sincere host Jun the-doesn't-fully-connect with her listeners, because she merely reads from a script. Several times, are confused her handling words like Filipino (like, saying "website," instead of "wikisi"), which makes her sound less authoritative.

In future broadcasts, perhaps the host can interview authorities of the subjects she's tackling, so she can go beyond merely enumerating facts. Despite these, however, "Wika, Kultura at Edukasyon" and "Sulyap Kultura" are still worth listeners' while because of their timeliness and relevance.

E-mail rgmgmo@skipmail.com

SNEAK PREVIEW

Dazzling drama captures a 'Social' phenomenon

By Rito P. Asis

GARFIELD, EISENBERG AND TEMBERLAKE (INSET). Confirming vicissitudes of the match.

LAST TIME we checked out Jose Rizal's account, a friend's name resented that he was resisting staggering thing as he desperately tried to put himself to sleep, while a human massive was roaring above. But that inexplicably got inside her apartment after she had eaten cold stuff.

Elsewhere, in an Private Message box, a stranger from Jimmy Bain, England, left us a private message, apologizing for calling us "wicked" in her earlier rant (go figure) over the new review we wrote by George Clooney's latest film, "The Americans." Like those forwarded text messages we hate receiving, there are other mundane or meaningless things we hardly read about.

Yet, one thing we every time we receive stories or about our inbox messages. When someone or to family, friends and colleagues at work, but Facebook allows us to socialize and mingle with the rest of the world!

Bitter breakups

David Fincher's "The Social Network," which opens next week, eloquently captures that sense of interconnectivity as it chronicles how socially inept 19-year-old Harvard nerd, Mark Zuckerberg (Jesse Eisenberg), came up with the idea for Facebook in 2003 after a bitter breakup with his girlfriend, Erica (Rooney Mara).

Some six years later, Facebook has become a worldwide social-networking phenomenon that has made Zuckerberg one of the world's youngest billionaires—with a net worth of $6.9 billion! But, as the movie's tagline succinctly cautions, "You don't get to 500 million friends without making a few enemies."

Among Zuckerberg's "enemies" are twins, Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (both played by tennis champion), and their colleagues, Divya Narendra (Max Minghella), who claim that their idea for an online-connection network was stolen by Mark.

Flashy theatrics

After getting drenched in the flashy theatrics of Inception's cunningly labyrinthine cityscapes, Hans Zimmer's thunderous soundtrack, and Christopher Nolan's cracked up to be?

The man's like how casually Mark cozies Eduardo—one of the last growing restless couple they marvel together, but you never believe sympathize with him as he stands in front of the woman he loves, helplessly grasping for words of apology that never come.

Timberlake drips with charming menace, and Hammer is appropriately ambitious. But, Garfield does an even better job—he subtly draws out the film's insightful perspective, which would've been thwarted out to the midst of all that scheming and manipulating, had his character been portrayed by a less skilled actor.

High-stakes reality

One of the best (and smartest) movies of the year, Fincher's brilliantly paced production is characterized by a visual snap and polish that transports moviegoers into Zuckerberg's high-stakes reality, enhanced further by a narrative style that draws them into the high drama it depicts, making the film compelling and completely watchable.

"The Social Network" presents conflicting versions of the truth, but it doesn't spill its viewers/subscribers in lake. What it does, instead, is encourage them to choose for themselves which motives mean in the greater scheme of things. What does ambition outweigh friendship and honor? For decide.

Excellent exchange of ideas

STREET SMARTS

Beauty Sarmiento

SELECTED STUDENTS from the Philippine Science High School (PSHS) were among the guests at the symposium on the multifunction cardiogram (MCG) held recently at Makati Medical Center. Dr. John Sembeck, endorsement of the MCG system, delivered the lecture.

MCG is a breakthrough in the diagnosis of coronary artery disease (CAD). It transforms raw data from the traditional electrocardiogram (ECG) to build a functional mathematical model of the cardiac system, from which a more accurate diagnosis can be drawn.

Young scientists

Since THESE students are generally gifted in math and science, physicists of MCG said that these young scientists are be inspired to think of new research ideas akin to the applications in MCG development.

"The students are the focus of this survey," stated Dr. Roberto Anastacio, one of MMC's respected cardiologists. "The pathway toward being the center of excellence lies in our strong ties with the young."

ETKIMECK. Transfer of technology.

Referring to the development of the MCG system, Anastacio said: "We're thankful for the development of this particular machine, and we're pleased that they have invited MMC to be the system's first international partner." He described it as "a transfer of technology" and an "exchange of ideas."